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THE INDEPENDENT

3,067 SATURDAY 17 AUGUST 1996 WEATHER 50p (IR65P)

Booming back to the Eighties

Shares soar and credit card sales set a new record

MICHAEL HARRISON and MAGUS GRIMOND

Fresh evidence that Britain is on the verge of an Eighties-style boom emerged yesterday as the stock market roared to an all-time high, spending by plastic broke new records and an influential survey forecast the biggest rise yet in house prices.

The triple whammy of upbeat news on the economy raised hopes of a further cut in interest rates but also revived fears of an unsustainable consumer boom in the run-up to the next election.

The FTSE-100 index of Britain's leading companies ended the day 35.5 points higher at a record 3,873 as lower public borrowing figures and renewed hopes of interest-rate cuts sent shares soaring.

Meanwhile, a report from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research said that economic conditions were now similar to those a decade ago when Britain witnessed the biggest boom in the property market since the Second World War. The institute is predicting an increase in house prices of more than 10 per cent next year.

The euphoria in the City of London was spurred by a spate of recent good economic news, culminating yesterday in further evidence of booming sales to the consumer and strong public finances. John Lewis, the department store chain, revealed that sales rose 23 per cent in the first week of August, compared with a year ago. It expected sales to be 7.5 per cent higher in the latest six months of the year.

Meanwhile, the British Retail Consortium said that credit-card sales in the high street broke the £1bn barrier for the first time in the second quarter of the year. Andrew Sentance, BRC's senior economic adviser, said this reflected the general improvement in the climate over the first half of the year.

Economists said official figures showing that central and local government repaid £1.66bn in debt last month had put the Government's forecasts for public borrowing back on track and would strengthen the hand of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, for tax cuts in November's Budget. Hopes that he may override the opposition of Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to further interest-rate cuts were fanned by rumours that the Bundesbank may lower German rates on Thursday.

Adam Cole, an economist at stockbrokers HSBC James Capel, said the Chancellor could "hang another rate cut" on last week's inflation figures, which showed the underlying rate of retail price rises unchanged in the three months to July, while the underlying level of industry's costs are at their lowest for a generation.

But yesterday's borrowing figures will give renewed encouragement that Mr Clarke will have scope to cut taxes as well in his November Budget. After overshooting the Treasury's £26.9bn target so far this year, economists said the July figures are back in line.

However, observers warned that much of yesterday's enthusiasm could dry up later in the year. The market was partly driven by technical considerations deriving from the futures market and political uncertainties and arguments over monetary policy could return to haunt equities.

Richard Kersley at brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd warned that markets had not factored in fully the prospect of a Labour government and said new worries may emerge around the time of the party conferences in the autumn – "Squabbles between Eddie George and Ken Clarke, concerns that monetary policy is too loose".

The NIESR said that the real cost of buying a house was at its lowest level since 1989. It also pointed to the high level of loans that banks and building societies are prepared to advance against properties. It estimates that the loan-to-value ratio is the highest since mortgage lending was deregulated 30 years ago.

Earlier this week the Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender gave a further boost to the housing market by offering to indemnify buyers from being caught by negative equity.

Footsie hits new highs, page 16

How Methley Terrace launched a turf war against the car

Grass grows under their feet: Children playing in Leeds before and after Transport 2000 and local residents launched the Streets for People campaign to encourage traffic reduction

Photographs: John Houlihan/Guzelian; PA

NHS not to fund octuplet treatment

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

The "cash for foetuses" controversy surrounding Mandy Allwood, the woman pregnant with eight babies, took a new twist last night when the Midlands health authority responsible for her care said it would not pay for her specialist treatment in London.

An assumption that Ms Allwood's medical bills would be met by the *News of the World*, with which she and her partner Paul Hudson signed a six-figure deal, turned out to be false. Solihull Health Authority said Ms Allwood's GP had contacted it asking if it would pay for her care under Professor Kyprios Nicolaides, a renowned ante-natal expert at King's College Hospital, London.

Senior health authority officials yesterday rejected the request, arguing that that Ms Allwood, 31, would receive expert care far more cheaply in a Birmingham maternity hospital. A spokesman denied that the deal with the newspaper had influenced the decision.

Dr Michael Deakin, a consultant in public health medicine, said: "We would have reached the same decision whether or not a newspaper was involved. It is important for her to have excellent maternity care locally and it is available. It is ridiculous that she should be living in Solihull but being cared for by someone in London."

However, a consultant obstetrician in the Midlands, who asked not to be named, said that the health authority was bluffing. "There is no doubt that a pregnancy like this requires the top-level care and equipment that is available in the NHS, and that is at King's," he said. "What they don't want to do is fork out tax-payers' money – and who can blame them – for the care of someone who may receive hundreds of thousands of pounds for babies born on the NHS."

Ms Allwood, who is 14 weeks pregnant, has been under the care of Professor Nicolaides since she was referred to him by the private hospital where she underwent fertility treatment with drugs.

He has appealed to the *News of the World* to cancel its contract with the couple. Professor Nicolaides, who is refusing to comment on the new development, has advised Ms Allwood to undergo selective abortion of six foetuses to safeguard her own health and ensure she has some surviving babies.

A spokesman for King's said that the hospital had no choice but to refuse treatment for Ms Allwood if her local health authority would not fund it. The News of the World said that Ms Allwood's treatment was a private matter for herself and her doctors.

However, Max Clifford, the PR guru representing the couple, said: "Mandy would be delighted if she could return home to Solihull and get the high level of care and equipment needed for her safety and that of her babies. But she has been told by Professor Nicolaides that she needs to be in London."

Cheating universities poach thousands of students

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Thousands of students are being poached by universities which often simply telephone them and offer them places after seeing their A-level results, the head of the admissions service has warned.

Some universities are encouraging young people to apply direct to them, bypassing the admissions regulations, while others are looking at the A-level grades and phoning up students who have done better than expected.

Further education colleges which run higher education courses have been particularly hard hit, with some saying that in past years they have lost hundreds of students to poachers from universities. They only know that this has been happening when their new recruits fail to turn up in September.

Some sources say that many new universities would not be concerned even if the official entrance system collapsed, as they get a majority of their students by unofficial means. The official way for students to get into university is to apply through the admissions service before Christmas the previous year. They can then accept one offer and keep another for lower grades as a kind of insurance. If they meet the necessary requirements of either one, they must take it up. The clearing system exists to match up spare places with students who have nowhere to go.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), has written to vice-chancellors in an attempt to persuade them not to take part in any underhand dealings.

Too many students are being asked by universities to bypass the official system, he says, and some have even drawn up their own application forms for unofficial entrants.

Mr Higgins has also written to several universities individually to warn them that there have been complaints about their recruitment methods.

He said the system was set up to prevent chaos and to help both students and universities. A proposed system under which everyone would apply after the A-level results came out would prevent such problems occurring, he added.

"All freedom is based on restrictions. The whole system is geared to the candidates' needs so that everybody is applying under the same rules. Universities don't want to find in October that they are thousands light of their targets," he said.

Julian Gravatt, senior registrar at Lewisham College, south London, said it had lost students in the past, often to much larger institutions. "Both the university and the student would say that it was better for them, but it isn't always true. There is a possible problem with drop-out along the line because those places don't offer the supportive environment to students that we can," he said.

Ted Neild, spokesman for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, condemned the practice. Before the central admissions service was set up in 1961, universities never knew how many of their students would turn up because they might easily have accepted two or more offers, he said.

"Actions like these, if they are occurring, pose a threat to the integrity of the central admissions service which has done everybody so much good."

Your chance to find a place

The Independent and the *Independent on Sunday* will again this year be the ONLY papers to run all the official Ucas lists of university and college vacancies.

If you're looking for a place, then you will need *The Independent* next Monday (19 August), when the first lists will be published.

QUICKLY

£70m to smash IRA
The Callaghan and Thatcher Governments blew more than £70m on the ill-fated De Lorean project in the hope it would help provide "a hammer blow to the IRA", according to secret Government papers. Page 2

Costly commissioner
Gill Rowlands, Commissioner for Protection against Unlawful Industrial Action, cost taxpayers £92,803 last year, and was unable to help any of those who asked for her help. Page 4

Lebed on offensive
Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to Chechenya, Alexander Lebed, yesterday demanded the dismissal of Russia's powerful Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov, denouncing him as "one of the main culprits in the war" Page 9

Blyton snubbed
While towns across Britain prepare to celebrate Enid Blyton's centenary, the town council in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, where she lived and worked for 30 years, has forgotten its most famous daughter. Page 5

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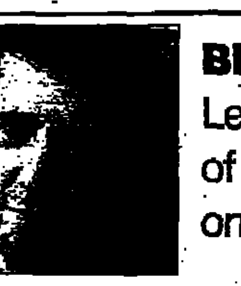
The murdered gang member who nearly made good



Blake Morrison
Learns the value of patience while on holiday

Marriage
With weddings down to 4 minutes, why bother?

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Ulster scandal: Cabinet papers reveal that ministers wasted £70m to secure 'hammer blow'

De Lorean cash used in battle with IRA

Road to nowhere: John De Lorean in his ill-fated car in 1982. More than £70m was blown on the project Photograph: PA

ANTHONY BEVINS and *MICHAEL HARRISON*

The Callaghan and Thatcher governments of the late 1970s and early 1980s blew more than £70m of public money on the ill-fated De Lorean car project in West Belfast, because it was hoped that it would help provide "a hammer blow to the IRA", according to previously secret government papers.

The revelation is one of several sensational disclosures in Cabinet and ministerial papers that are being released into the public domain by a New York court next week.

The hearing, in which the Government is suing auditors Arthur Andersen, is part of long-fought preliminaries before the action comes to court. It was decided on Thursday that the papers could be made public, and in a London press release last night the auditors provide the first evidence of how ministers repeatedly ignored warnings about De Lorean because they were so desperate to give Ulster jobs and good news.

The papers even include Cabinet minutes – which were notably excluded from the evidence given in the Matrix Churchill case. In one critical minute from July 1978, the then Northern Ireland Secretary, Roy Mason, says it is "of the utmost political, social and psychological importance that the project should go ahead. This would be a hammer blow to the IRA". His advice followed a warning the previous week by the management consultants McKinsey and Co that "the chances of the project succeeding as planned are remote".

The profligacy did not end with Labour. In July 1980, the Thatcher government agreed to provide assistance, of £14m extendable to £21m, on the advice of the Northern Ireland Secretary, James Prior.

When De Lorean hit a further financial crisis the following February, the Cabinet was asked for a bank guarantee. It was argued: "We cannot settle this on commercial grounds alone. The De Lorean venture has become something of a symbol for HMG's commitment to Northern Ireland."

Mrs Thatcher wrote a note saying: "I take it this is the last [doubly underlined] help we give to this unwise project." The company went into liquidation one year later.

The Government began its legal action against Arthur Andersen in 1985, but 11 years later – and 14 years after De Lorean collapsed – the case has yet to come to court. It took two years just to decide which country the action should take place in: the auditors wanted it heard in Britain: the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development wanted it held in the US, where courts can award triple damages in the event of the plaintiff successfully suing.

For two years between 1989 and 1991, the Government and Arthur Andersen fought a separate case over whether the Cabinet minutes and other confidential Whitehall documents relating to the collapse should be made available to the defence. Such documents are not normally released for 30 years, but the court eventually ruled in Arthur Andersen's favour.

In April this year, Judge Mukasey of the New York southern district court dismissed the Government's case for the action to be heard under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act, which would have permitted it to claim damages of up to $1bn.

The judge also told the Government that if it wanted to keep any of the Cabinet documents under seal then it would have to show compelling justification. On Thursday night, in an historic ruling, he decided that it had not done so.

In the last five years, depositions have been taken in writing and on video camera from hundreds of witnesses, including government ministers involved at the time, senior civil servants and consultants. Until yesterday they remained locked in lawyers' safes in New York.

The team of consultants from McKinsey and Co that advised the Government on the project was led by Sir John Banham, who went on to become director general of the CBI and head of the Government Commission on Local Government. In his deposition, Sir John says: "There are very few projects where hindsight and foresight seem quite so clearly aligned."

De Lorean Motors was formed in 1978 when John De Lorean, now 71, a former Chrysler executive, persuaded the then Labour government to back his dream of a stainless steel, gull-winged sports car. The Government's Department of Economic Development ploughed £78m into the project, much of which was siphoned off into Swiss bank accounts by Mr De Lorean and other senior executives. The venture finally collapsed in 1982 with the loss of more than 2,000 jobs. Only 8,333 cars were built.

Although a warrant was issued for Mr De Lorean's arrest, he never faced trial. In 1984, he was acquitted of cocaine trafficking after a US jury decided he had been entrapped by FBI undercover agents.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, said yesterday that the Conservatives would robustly defend their "demonic" Tony Blair poster, after the chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority confirmed it was in possible breach of its code. The "New Labour, New Danger" poster, depicting the Labour leader with fiery eyes, was compared by Mr Portillo to the 1992 campaign poster, issued by Labour, which featured then-Chancellor, Norman Lamont, as "Vatman", in Batman garb. *Anthony Bevins*

A dozen RUC officers and their families have had to flee their homes because of threats, police revealed last night. They were forced out in the aftermath of the Orange Order stand-off at Drumcree, loyalist protests over the handling of the Apprentice Boys parade in Londonderry and a march in the village of Dunloy, Co Antrim.

Finding a resting placed for the symbolic rock of Scotland's ancient sovereignty, the Stone of Scone, will prove to be a difficult choice. The Secretary of State, Michael Forsyth, put the matter out for public consultation. Almost 80 suggestions, some brilliant, some bizarre, some expected, had been submitted by the deadline yesterday.

Odds-on favourite is Edinburgh Castle. St Giles Cathedral on Edinburgh's Royal Mile is also in the running.

Ulster's meat plants were under pressure last night to resume the BSE cattle cull. It was suspended by the Meat Exporters' Association after negotiations with the Department of Agriculture over the cost of killing the 30-month-old cattle broke down. Ulster Farmers' Union president Greer McCollum said: "They should stop playing around with the livelihoods of beef farmers."

Richard Burden: In the issue of 9 August, Don Macintyre wrote that thed Labour MP Richard Burden had last year accused Tony Blair of being Stalin in the making. While making sharp criticisms of Mr Blair's leadership style, Mr Burden did not compare him to Stalin.

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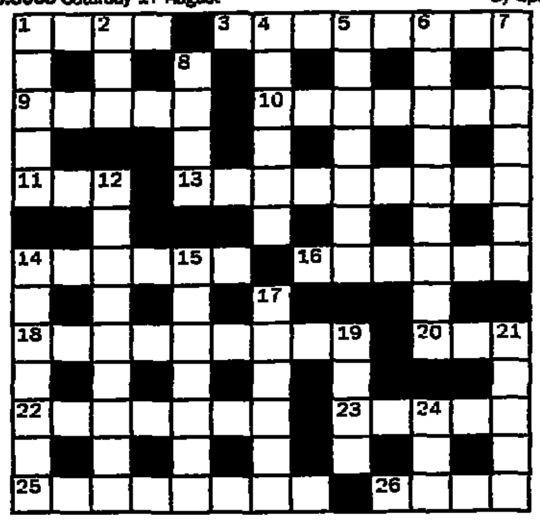


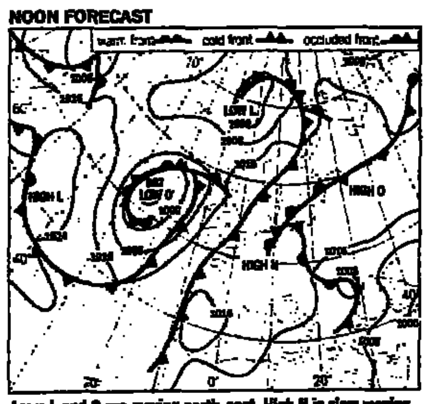
ACROSS
1 Tip (4)
3 Apprehended (8)
9 Light wood (5)
10 Dramatic scene (7)
11 Gentle blow (3)
13 Continental roll (9)
14 Ghost (6)
16 Mongrel (6)
18 Harsh (9)
20 Health resort (3)
22 Express strong disapproval of (7)
23 Bric-a-brac article (5)
25 Anything much sought-after (4,4)
26 Leave out (4)

DOWN
1 Custom (5)
2 Zero (3)
4 Share (6)
5 Legation (7)
6 Reference book (9)
7 Cowed (7)
8 Soft, pliable mineral (4)
12 Chief (9)
14 Lively party (7)
15 Thoroughly chilled (3-4)
17 Precious stones (6)
19 Credit (4)
21 Concerning (5)
24 Edge (3)

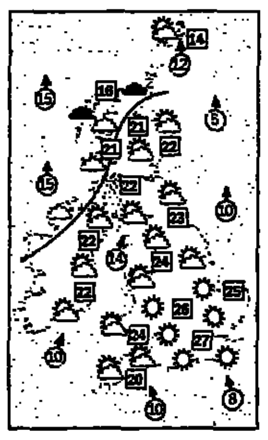
Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Dollar, 4 Might (Dolomite), 8 Ulcer, 9 San Juan, 10 Landing, 11 Flee, 12 Err, 14 Ache, 15 Each, 18 Rum, 21 Ally, 23 Amateur, 25 Potherb, 26 Evict, 27 Rangy, 28 Attend. DOWN: 1 Double, 2 Laconic, 3 Airliner, 4 Monk, 5 Gruel, 6 Tandem, 7 Usage, 13 Red alert, 16 Crevice, 17 Dapper, 19 Maybe, 20 Grated, 22 Latin, 24 Very.

Notes

NOON FORECAST



Lows L and Q are moving north-east. High H is slow moving with little change in central pressure.



TODAY'S FORECAST: Northwest Scotland and the Western Isles will be cloudy with rain and a freshening southerly wind. The Northern Isles will cloud over with some rain, after a fine start. The rest of Scotland and N Ireland will see grey cloud giving way to spells of warm sunshine with a breeze from the south. All of England and Wales will get some very warm sunshine and patchy cloud, but with refreshing breezes for south facing coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS: Sunday will see very warm sunshine, but with showers in N Ireland and western Scotland. Heavy showers and thunderstorms will break out in many places on Monday, but central and eastern England will keep some sunshine. On Tuesday, storms will move east while sunshine and scattered showers move into the west.

WORLD WEATHER Yesterday, noon GMT: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; h, hail; r, rain; s, sun; sh, showers; sl, sleet; sn, snow; th, thunder. *previous day's figure at local time.

	C F		C F		C F		C F		C F		C F		C F
Aberdeen	c 23 73	*Bogota	c 18 64	Corfu	s 31 88	Isles of Scilly	f 19 66	Malaga	s 28 82	Nottingham	f 23 73	Southend	f 23 73
Akrotiri	s 30 86	Bombay	c 28 82	Dakar	f 29 84	Istanbul	s 27 81	Malta	s 33 91	Oslo	c 25 77	Stockholm	s 23 73
*Alexandria	s 29 84	Bordeaux	s 28 82	Darwin	f 30 86	Jakarta	th 24 75	Manchester	s 23 73	Oxford	f 24 75	Stornoway	c 14 57
Algiers	f 32 90	Boston	f 23 73	Dhahran	s 35 95	Jeddah	s 37 99	Manila	c 32 90	Paris	s 25 77	Strasbourg	s 22 72
Alicante	s 29 84	Bournemouth	s 22 72	Dover	s 21 70	Jersey	s 24 75	Mecca	s 41 106	Peking	f 31 88	Sydney	s 19 66
Amsterdam	c 18 64	Brighton	s 18 64	Dublin	c 17 63	Jerusalem	s 31 88	Melbourne	c 13 55	Perth	c 15 59	*Taipei	th 26 79
*Anchorage	c 17 63	Brisbane	s 23 73	Edinburgh	c 19 66	Johannesburg	s 18 64	*Mexico City	r 18 64	Plymouth	f 20 68	Tel Aviv	s 32 90
Anglesey	f 19 66	Bristol	s 23 73	Faro	c 19 66	Karachi	f 29 84	*Miami	f 33 91	*Port Stanley	c 6 43	Tenerife	f 27 81
Athens	s 30 86	Brussels	s 23 [illegible]	Fez	s 23 73	*Kathmandu	— — —	Milan	f 28 82	Prague	sh 19 66	Tiree	c 15 59
Auckland	r 11 52	Bucharest	s 25 77	Florence	s 29 84	Kiev	s 26 79	Mombasa	f 26 79	Reykjavik	c 10 50	Tokyo	c 34 93
Ayr	c 18 64	Budapest	f 19 66	Frankfurt	s 23 73	*Kingston	sh 29 84	*Montreal	s 27 81	Rhodes	s 33 91	*Toronto	th 21 70
Bahrain	s 36 97	*Buenos Aires	f 18 64	Funchal	c 23 73	*Kuala Lumpur	f 33 91	Moscow	f 25 77	*Rio de Janeiro	f 23 73	Tunis	s 35 95
Bangkok	c 35 95	Cairo	s 36 97	Geneva	s 23 73	Las Palmas	s 25 77	Munich	c 19 66	Riyadh	s 43 109	Valencia	f 27 81
*Barbados	[illegible] 25 82	*Calgary	c 27 81	Gibraltar	s 27 81	*Lima	m 17 63	Nairobi	c 20 68	Rome	s 28 82	*Vancouver	f 21 70
Barcelona	24 [illegible]	Cape Town	c 13 55	Glasgow	c 17 63	Lisbon	s 26 79	Naples	s 31 88	Ronaldsway	c 15 59	Venice	s 25 77
Beirut	f 32 90	*Caracas	f 20 68	Guernsey	fg 21 70	Liverpool	f 23 73	*Nassau	f 31 88	Salzburg	r 18 64	Vienna	f 22 72
Belfast	c 18 64	Cardiff	s 21 70	Harare	f 22 72	Lizard	s 17 63	New Delhi	c 29 84	*San Francisco	s 21 70	Warsaw	f 24 75
Belgrade	[illegible] 20 68	Carlisle	f 20 68	Helsinki	s 24 75	Locarno	s 25 77	*New Orleans	s 31 88	*Santiago	s 24 75	*Washington	s 29 84
Berlin	[illegible] 18 64	Casablanca	s 24 75	Hong Kong	th 28 82	London	s 24 75	*New York	s 27 81	Scarborough	f 19 66	Wellington	c 11 52
*Bermuda	f 28 82	*Chicago	f 23 73	*Honolulu	s 32 90	*Los Angeles	s 26 79	Newcastle	f 22 72	Seoul	f 30 86	York	c 23 73
Biarritz	s 24 75	Christchurch	f 11 52	Innsbruck	c 18 64	Luxembourg	c 22 72	Nice	s 27 81	Singapore	c 27 81	Zurich	s 21 70
Birmingham	s 23 73	Cologne	c 28 82	Ipswich	s 23 73	Madrid	s 27 81	Nicosia	s 33 91	Southampton	f 23 73		
Blackpool	c 20 68	Copenhagen	s 23 73	Islamabad	c 23 73	Majorca	f 32 90						

Sun rises	5.49	Moon rises	9.09
Sun sets	20.16	Moon sets	21.18
Full Moon August 28			

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London	20.18	to	5.51
Bristol	20.28	to	6.01
Birmingham	20.29	to	5.56
Manchester	20.32	to	5.54
Newcastle	20.35	to	5.47
Glasgow	20.18	to	5.55
Belfast	20.51	to	6.05

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	4.29	6.9	16.40	6.8
Liverpool	1.36	9.0	13.59	8.8
Avonmouth	9.55	12.2	22.06	12.4
Hull (Albert Dock)	8.45	7.3	21.12	7.1
Greenock	2.55	3.4	15.33	3.0
Dun Laoghaire	1.44	4.0	14.07	3.8

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY

	Nitrogen Dioxide	Ozone
Yesterday's Readings		
London	Moderate	Moderate
S England	Good	Moderate
Wales	Good	Moderate
C England	Good	Moderate
N England	Good	Moderate
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good
Outlook for Today		
London	Moderate	Moderate
S England	Good	Poor
Wales	Good	Moderate
C England	Good	Poor
N England	Good	Moderate
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

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Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 39p per min (cheap rate) 49p per min (at other times) inc VAT.

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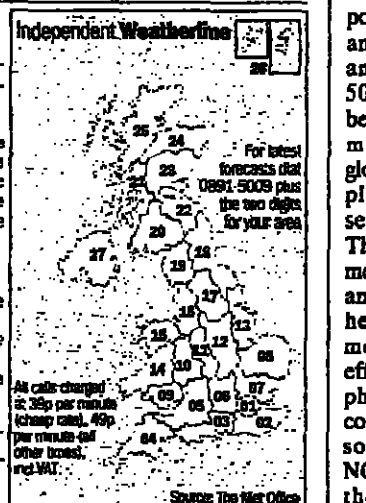

All calls charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate), 49p per minute (all other times), incl VAT.
Source: The Met Office

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هكذا من الاصل

Theatre pioneer attacks Fringe

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

Criticism of the Edinburgh Festival heightened yesterday when one of the city's best-known arts entrepreneurs attacked the state of the Fringe. This followed the anxieties expressed earlier by Professor George Steiner that the Festival had lost its sense of purpose.

Yesterday, Richard Demarco, one of the founders of the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, the country's first fringe theatre, lamented the decline in quality of the city's Fringe Festival and its increasing domination by stand-up comedians.

At a debate on the role of the 50-year-old Edinburgh Festival in the next millennium he said: "In the old days 90 per cent of what was on at the Fringe was of high quality. Now there are hundreds, even thousands, of theatrical events but the fact is that you cannot be sure everything will be good.

"There has also been a terrible increase in the number of stand-up comics. There are so many it has become an infestation with is impossible to keep out. I've loved comedy all my life, but I want to see more of a balance between comedy and tragedy in the Fringe."

Mr Demarco, who is showing the first British exhibition of the work of the ex-convict sculptor Jimmy Boyle for 12 years, said there was also a danger that the visual arts would become totally eradicated from the Festival.

Major exhibitions of Velazquez and Giacometti were being given the same status in the Fringe Festival programme as other, more minor shows. "That is ridiculous," he told the audience at the Demarco European Art Foundation.

The organisers must also take more trouble to encourage performers from places such as Bosnia, Romania and Russia, he said. "So many of the hundreds of millions of people who were cut off from us in the Cold War earn $40 a month. Unless they are famous, how on earth [can they] afford to come here? And how are they going to come here if all we can give them is a small space?"

John Calder, the Scottish publisher who was also involved in the founding of the Traverse in the early 1960s in a bid to retain the Festival spirit in Edinburgh all year round, said the Festival was under-promoted.

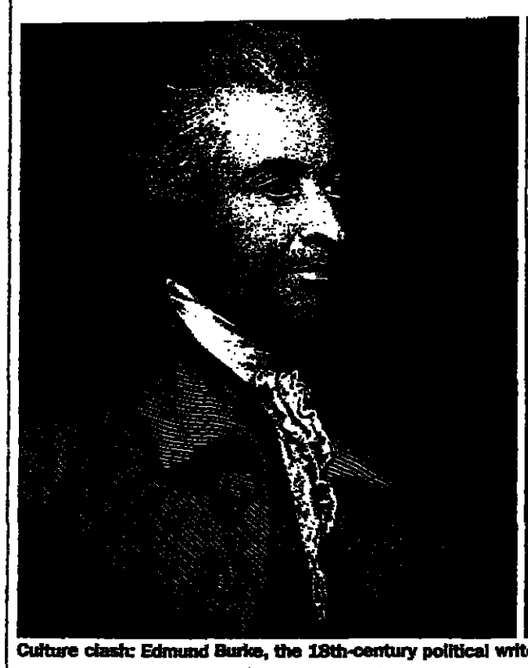
"It's amazing how little the Festival is known around the world and I think the Scottish Tourist Office does an extremely bad job in publicising it. There's something wrong with Edinburgh in that it's still a secret. People who come here love it but not enough people know about it."

In future, he believed, the Fringe would expand to include more performances of opera and ballet. As subsidies continue to be drastically cut people will have to find ways of raising their own money, often under impossible conditions. The arts in the future are going to be about basic simplicity and they will have to work out how to accomplish this."

But Mr Demarco added that in its previous half-century, the annual Festival had done much to change the Scots' dour tendencies and their "Knoxian Presbyterian prejudice against anything which gave one a smile."

"The Festival has somehow, little by little, relaxed that. The Scotsman may be full of people writing letters saying, 'Why don't they clean up the beaches instead of throwing money away on the Arts', but underneath it all they can now afford to face the fact that life can be about joy."

Writers' roots: No celebration for centenary of Noddy's creator



Culture clash: Edmund Burke, the 18th-century political writer, upstages Enid Blyton, the popular children's author. Beaconsfield forgot her birthday

Blyton abandoned by her birthplace

REBECCA FOWLER

There will be no lashings of ginger beer, no buns for tea and no jolly larks in Beaconsfield next summer. While the rest of Britain is preparing to celebrate Enid Blyton's centenary, the local town council in Buckinghamshire has forgotten the birthday of its most famous daughter.

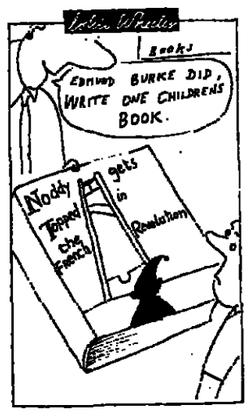
The celebrated children's writer, who was born in August 1897 and lived in Beaconsfield for 30 years, wrote more than 700 children's books in her lifetime. Among the most well known were the Famous Five adventures of Anne, Dick, George, Julian, and Timmy the dog, and the Noddy books.

But Beaconsfield has chosen to honour the bicentenary of the death of an 18th century political writer instead. Edmund Burke also lived in Beaconsfield, from where he went on to produce some of his own most famous works including *Reflections on the Revolution in France*.

Lesley Mallinder, deputy mayor of Beaconsfield, said: "We are not snubbing Enid Blyton, this was not a deliberate attempt to not celebrate the centenary. It was an oversight. We simply didn't realise it was the centenary next year. People are not terribly *au fait* with dates of things like that."

She added: "It may not be true of rest of Britain but Edmund Burke is more famous in Beaconsfield. There's only one road named after Enid Blyton, that's Blyton Close, but there are many after Burke. We're not against a celebration, but we couldn't have anything that clashed."

Many of Blyton's books have attracted the ire of the politically correct in recent years, for their racism and sexism, and some libraries banned them from their shelves, but the council insisted the absence of a celebration was purely an oversight.



Despite the indifference in Beaconsfield, a number of national celebrations have been organised. Troeadero, which bought up Blyton's work for £13m earlier this year, has set up publishing, broadcast and merchandising deals.

The Royal Mail will also launch a set of commemorative stamps, and Noddy, whose adventures have been translated into 30 different languages including Latin, is being given a place on the Internet. The television dramas will include the Famous Five, Amelia Jane and the Secret Seven.

Gillian Baverstock, the author's eldest daughter who is organising the centenary year for Enid Blyton Limited, was stoical about the lack of celebrations in Beaconsfield. She said: "I suppose if the town council can only afford to celebrate one author, then Burke is a tremendous political figure. There will be plenty of countrywide celebrations for my mother."

Carefree days: Noddy and Big Ears were not to know that in years to come they'd be considered politically incorrect

Talking up a £2m storm in the name of art

Artspeople
with David Lister

When is a deadline not a deadline? When it is in the persuasive vocabulary of Mr Tim Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland.

Mr Clifford has won his campaign to keep Guercino's 17th-century painting, *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred*, from going to the Getty Museum in California. But the dramatic midnight deadline on Thursday to raise the £2.04m to keep it in Scotland was actually dramatic licence on the part of Mr Clifford. He knew that an anonymous benefactor had pledged to make up the difference if the appeal failed to raise the cash. Mr Clifford just wanted public donations to continue so the outstanding amount would be as low as possible.

I suppose being economical with the truth is permissible in the name of art. If you disagree, ring Mr Tim Clifford ... after midnight.

The success of *Independence Day* as a special-effects science-fiction blockbuster is a little unnerving for its star, Jeff Goldblum. "We thought it was a comedy," says Goldblum. "The script was very funny." The special effects were added later, and amazed the cast as much as the audiences. The actors' bank managers can live with it, though.

Here's one for theatrical trivia quizzes. Who is the only female performer to have won all four of the biggest show business awards – Oscar, Tony, Grammy and Emmy?

The answer is Rita Moreno, the American star who played Anita in the film of *West Side Story*. The 64-year-old actress/singer is taking over the role of Norma Desmond in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* on the London stage for eight weeks from 9 September while the present incumbent Petula Clark is on holiday. The holiday relief could prove the most interesting of Sir Andrew's many Normas.

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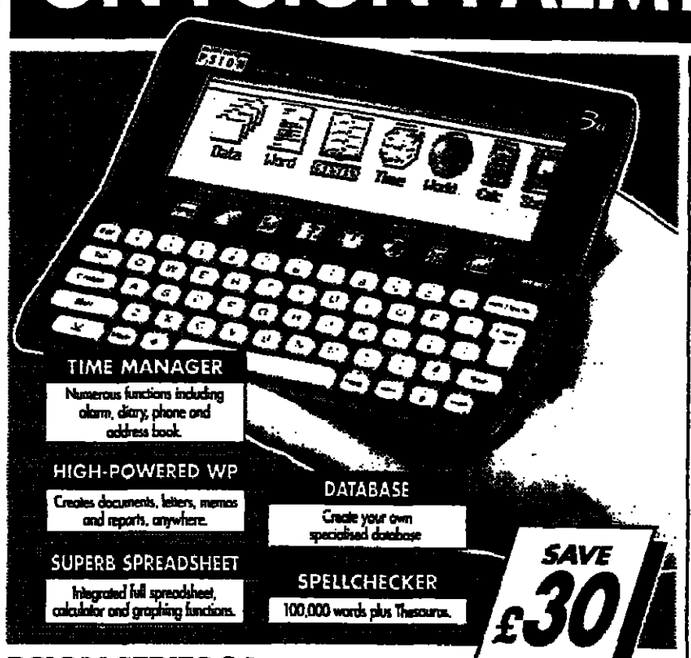

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news

Scotland to turn back the clock with lottery-funded forest on Loch Lomond's bonny banks

Back to the future: The banks of Loch Lomond are to be restored to their former tree-lined glory, with £6m of lottery cash earmarked for Millennium projects. The 3,000-acre Forest for a Thousand Years – featuring Scots pine and birch, and incorporating 8kms of public footpaths – will attempt to recreate the scenery of Rob Roy's era Photograph: Jeremy Sutton Hibbert

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Diana ban raises fear over press freedom

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

The paparazzi kept clear of Kensington Palace yesterday as they digested the impact of the injunction secured by the Princess of Wales against a freelance photographer, Martin Stenning.

Mr Stenning had meanwhile consulted lawyers, who were studying the terms of the order granted in his absence by the High Court in London on Wednesday night. If he does decide to appeal it in a contested hearing, his chances of success are slim.

The order bans him from approaching within 300 metres of Princess Diana and from communicating with her, harassing her or interfering with her safety, security or well-being or behaving in any way which has the effect of disrupting her life.

But does it signify a new attack on press freedom, of the kind potentially raised by the planned new law on stalking? That is already giving tabloid editors, all of whom use paparazzi from time to time, much food for thought. And could this be the beginning of a concerted counter-attack on the paparazzi by a princess in search of a new identity?

It is too soon to say. As the supporting affidavit sworn by the Princess and reproduced in full in yesterday's *Sun* shows, the claim was not simply about irritation, even extreme irritation, but fear.

Ken Lennox, the *Sun*'s picture editor, said he was concerned that stalking legislation could hamper photographers' coverage of stories of genuine interest, but added: "This case may be unique. The Princess of Wales said he frightened her. I have never heard her say that before."

Ironically, the *Sun* had used one of Mr Stenning's pictures in the past, after he arrived at the paper's offices with a shot of the Princess and Anthony Julius, her solicitor, on the steps of the law firm Mishcon de Reya during the royal divorce negotiations. Three of his shots also appeared in yesterday's edition to illustrate the Princess's mounting frustration.

The 36-year-old photographer's habit of waiting near the entrance to Kensington Palace then trailing the Princess on his Suzuki motorbike amounted to stalking, she alleged, after a series of incidents including smashing into her car, pushing her, shouting abuse and spoiling outings with her sons, William and Harry. Last Friday she snatched his camera bag, motorcycle helmet and keys.

She swore in the affidavit: "I always leave home with an acute sense of anxiety ..., I can no longer drive out of the gates of Kensington Palace without fearing what the defendant might do to me next."

Despite his angry protestations on GMTV yesterday – "she's just using me as a pointer for women's rights", he claimed – Mr Stenning would be hard-pressed to contradict that. Mr Julius said two alternative cases could be made against him – either that his oppressive behaviour had gone beyond what was acceptable from a press photographer, or that his preoccupation made him a stalker, regardless of whether he was holding a camera.

Martin Stenning: Princess 'using me for women's rights'

Mr Julius, who never leaves a stone unturned, has also seized the opportunity to spotlight the wider issue by saying: "My client ... hopes that, as well as alleviating her own distress this will highlight the destructive effect of persistent harassment on women's lives."

The fact remains, however, that just as the grubbier end of the market occupied by Mr Stenning cannot be viewed as representative of all photographers, anyone – even the Princess of Wales – who claims a photographer is effectively a stalker will have to prove it. The moral of the tale for the press is vigilance, scrutiny, and the preparedness to challenge the significantly weaker cases that may well emerge in the future.

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Jubilant Dole rides high on media hype

Pap culture: Bob Dole, pictured with wife Elizabeth, left nothing to chance at this year's convention: no serious gaffes, no juicy rumours and no visible splits Photograph: AP

'I will betray nothing'

Rising in the polls and bolstered by $62m of new federal funds, Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole headed out yesterday for the campaign trail, promising sweeping tax cuts and and a return to vanished old-time values as the cure for America's ills, *writes Rupert Cornwell*.

In a rousing finale to a hugely successful convention here, Mr Dole placed the issues of trust and honesty at the forefront of his forthcoming election battle with Bill Clinton - "not merely whether the people trust the President", but whether the President and his party trusted the people. "I will betray nothing," Mr Dole told 2,000 cheering, flag-waving delegates.

Hitting what will be a key theme this autumn, Mr Dole contrasted a "Clinton administration élite who never grew up, never did anything real, never sacrificed and never suffered", with his record as a man "tested by adversity, made sensitive by hardship". He presented his 73 years as the key to recapturing a lost golden age.

Yesterday Mr Dole and his running mate, Jack Kemp, held an oceanside departure ceremony before starting a cross-country swing through Colorado, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania, all states the Democrats won in 1992.

The ticket must now build on the momentum of San Diego. But Republicans are taking heart from a CNN poll before Thursday's acceptance speech, showing a convention "bounce" which has already halved Mr Clinton's lead from 22 per cent to 11 per cent. The money shortage which has plagued Dole is also no more, with the arrival of federal funds for the official Republican nominee.

In his 56-minute speech, he stressed traditional Republican themes, promising lower taxes, a crackdown on crime, hardnosed foreign and defence policies, and higher personal standards: "Permissive and destructive behaviour must be opposed". The Republican party was "broad and inclusive" and resolutely opposed to discrimination. "If you don't agree, the exit signs are clearly marked," he told delegates to loud applause.

Rupert Cornwell on the Republican Party's triumph of administration over substance

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 96

San Diego — Never have so many spent so much to communicate so little of importance. All week, the handsome city of San Diego has been host to 2,000 delegates attending the Republican national convention, a formidable contingent but swamped by 15,000 members of the American and world press. The invasion has brought $160m (£104m) into the coffers of one of the most affluent municipalities of the US. But for what?

Before Bob Dole's acceptance speech on Thursday evening, this mighty media army had been tossed scarcely a crumb of news: not a single decent row, barely a visible split, not a serious gaffe, not even a juicy rumour to chase; nothing, in short, that had not been programmed in advance.

By day one, the erstwhile rebel Pat Buchanan had made peace with the Dole camp. Podium speeches were timed to the nano-second and purged of the slightest controversy. Barring a few lingering spats over abortion and a less-than-surprising volte-face of the vice-Presidential nominee, Jack Kemp, on affirmative action and immigration, the high points have been those intended by the Republican high command: Colin Powell's rousing address; a vulnerable and compelling Nancy Reagan talking about her husband incapacitated by Alzheimer's disease; and the Elizabeth Dole show, featuring candidate's wife turned talk-show queen.

Nancy Reagan: compelling

Among the few exceptions were a piece of splendid Newt Gingrich goofiness linking the Olympics to the Republican dream ("A mere 40 years ago, beach volleyball was just beginning, no bureaucrat would have invented it, that's what freedom's all about"), and a most undiplomatic crack by the suave former Secretary of State James Baker ("If Bill Clinton's a man of the world, who's been around, it sure ain't foreign policy they're talking about"). But these were rare moments. For the rest it has been pap: soothing, misleading, sometimes glorious, but pap – exactly as Bob Dole and his advisers intended.

San Diego will go down as the Republicans' Revenge. Television is the dominant currency of political coverage, and four years ago their party's Houston convention came across as a conservative war-dance that terrified moderate voters and may well have doomed George Bush. Never would such a mistake be made again, the new party chairman Haley Barbour vowed, and made no secret of the fact. But the networks committed a crucial error in disclosing their plans to limit prime-time coverage to one hour per night.

At once the Republican schedulers got to work. Less-than-popular figures such as Newt Gingrich were kept out of prime time, and the most divisive, like Pat Buchanan, kept off the podium completely. The cast was packed with women, minorities and, above all, moderates. A Martian in San Diego this week would have had no idea that the Christian right, accounting for 60 per cent of delegates, but considered dangerously extremist in swathes of the population, even existed.

And the Republicans, convinced (with some justification) that the media are biased in favour of the Democrats, made sure nothing would disturb the Martian's peace of mind. That hour of prime time was chopped up into snappy segments, each lasting a few minutes. Gone were the windy introductory speeches, during which a network could roll out pundits to place their jaundiced spin on proceedings. Cleverly, the organisers built in a few "down" minutes for commercial breaks, but the rest was a seamless promotion of the party message. Take it or leave it, the networks were told. For the most part, they have taken it.

In terms of dictating what appeared on American TV screens, therefore, it has been game, set and match to the Republicans. Anchormen whose fame is eclipsed only by the President himself have been reduced to crying foul. One of them, Ted Koppell, host of ABC's admirable *Nightline* programme, stumped out of San Diego saying there was "no news to report".

But the victory may prove Pyrrhic. A political party needs positive coverage – but above all it needs coverage. Goods news is no news, and modern conventions may be sweet-talking themselves into network oblivion. ABC's convention viewers on Tuesday were just 4.5 million, compared with the 15 million who tuned into its *Home Improvement* sitcom an hour earlier at 9pm. NBC and CBS did no better, and even Colin Powell on Monday could not prevent a 20 per cent drop in total opening night audience, compared with Houston in 1992.

In truth, 1996 may be the last year in which the major networks bother with the conventions. Conventions are not only a ratings bomb, but in this era of contested primaries and candidates' debates, no longer a vital component of the election process. Nevertheless, full coverage of them is available on CNN and the specialist public affairs channel, C-SPAN, which reach more than two-thirds of American homes. Herein surely lies the future of convention coverage. And perhaps 15,000 media folk will find better employment for their time.

Nation's gun crisis, page 9

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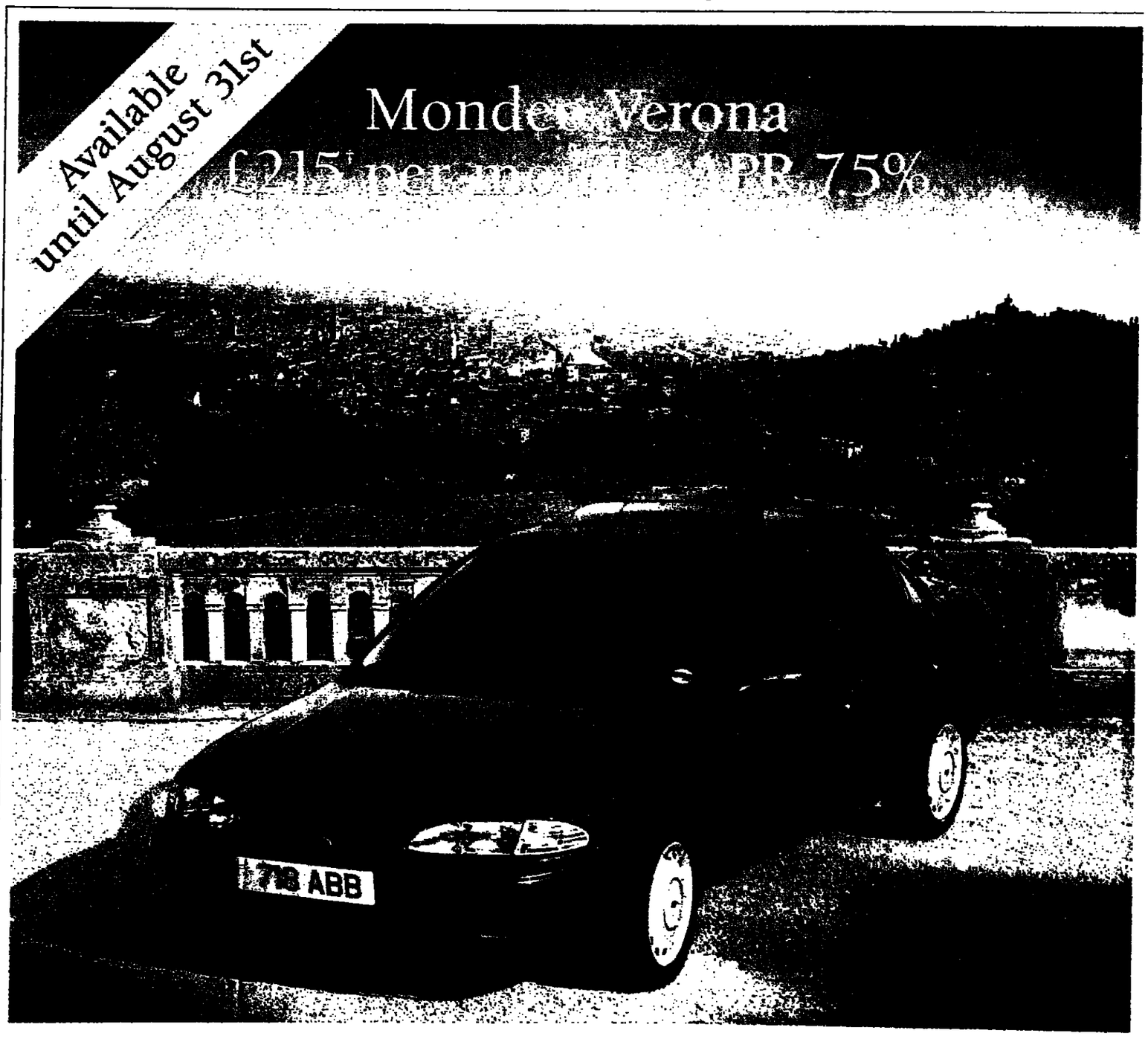

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Kremlin struggle: As battle to replace Yeltsin goes public, a separatist commander talks of his determination to fight on

Lebed blasts rival for fuelling Chechen war

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

The battle ground in the Chechen conflict switched abruptly from the Caucasus to the Kremlin yesterday when Alexander Lebed, Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to the republic, demanded the dismissal of Russia's powerful Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov.

The former general publicly denounced the minister as "one of the main culprits in the war", and implied his ministry was behind attempts to foment conflict in neighbouring republics.

His onslaught, made after he returned from talks in Chechnya with the rebel leadership, prompted a furious showdown in Moscow, where recriminations are flying over Russia's loss of Grozny to separatist forces.

Mr Kulikov accused Mr Lebed of being "engaged in the maniac pursuit of power". The minister, who said he was drafting a resignation letter, was also critical of the Kremlin, citing a "crisis in Russian power".

He said his ministry's thousands of troops in the republic were "catastrophically" underfunded and undermanned. He complained that he had repeatedly appealed in vain for the imposition of a state of emergency in Chechnya.

There was no indication yesterday of Mr Yeltsin's response to the brawl, although it suggests that his grip on his government is weakening. The President's aides say he is working for only two to three hours a day as he struggles to recover from the "colossal weariness" caused by the elections which ended more than six weeks ago.

Mr Lebed's outburst is yet another step in his campaign to consolidate power after being swept into high office in June by Mr Yeltsin. After he won 10 million votes, the President appointed him secretary of the Security Council. He has since placed him in charge of settling the Chechen crisis.

Within two months, Mr Lebed has secured the scalp of his arch-enemy, the former Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev. He has led a purge in the senior ranks of the army, ousting a handful of generals. He has played a major role in the removal of Mr Yeltsin's hardline confidant, Alexander Korzhakov, and the dismissal of the head of the KGB-style Federal Security Service, Mikhail Barsukov. He has also persuaded President Yeltsin to greatly increase the power of the Security Council.

Mr Lebed accused Mr Kulikov of having "a Napoleon complex". He alleged he had caught agents of the Interior ministry spying on him. He announced that Mr Yeltsin had a choice to make: "only one of us can stay – Lebed or Kulikov." However, he later said this was not a threat to resign.

His remarks seems likely to deepen his conflict with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, with whom he is engaged in an open battle over who will eventually replace Mr Yeltsin.

On Thursday, Mr Chernomyrdin unveiled his new cabinet in which Mr Kulikov remained at his post, despite the Chechen débâcle. Nor is the Prime Minister likely to have welcomed other blunt remarks by his rival, including a warning that Russia was "on the verge of a social explosion".

Although Mr Lebed is creating enemies in the Kremlin, his approach appears to be winning friends in Chechnya, where the Russian Interior Ministry is loathed. The Chechen leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, has spoken warmly of Mr Lebed's efforts to create peace, saying he "deserved strong praise".

The separatists whom Mr Lebed met on Thursday yesterday underscored their approval by releasing 17 Russian hostages. Meanwhile, Russian and Chechen commanders met to negotiate an order suspending combat operations. But these moves towards peace face many hurdles. This includes opposition from the Russian military, who still cling to the belief that they can win outright.

Last hope: A Chechen fighter checks the papers of a woman trying to flee Grozny *Photograph: Robert King/AP*

Rebel lord of Grozny revels in his triumph

CARLOTTA GALL
Grozny

The master of Grozny, Shamil Basayev, was sitting in a spartan room in a cellar in the city centre, nursing a wounded foot.

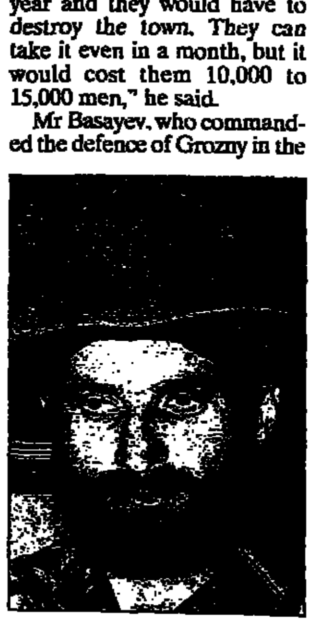
Though in pain, he seemed at ease and very much in control. Notorious for his raid on Budyonnovsk last year, when his band of fighters seized more than 1,000 hostages in the town hospital, Mr Basayev, 31, has established himself as one of the most accomplished guerrilla leaders in the world.

Ten days ago he led 1,500 men in an audacious three-pronged attack on the garrison town of Grozny, reaching the centre within half an hour.

Since then the Chechen rebels have surrounded thousands of Russian troops in their command posts all over the city.

"[The Russians] can take the city back. It would take half a year and they would have to destroy the town. They can take it even in a month, but it would cost them 10,000 to 15,000 men," he said.

Mr Basayev, who commanded the defence of Grozny in the first three months of the 20-month-old war, has presented Moscow with a big challenge.



'Do you not think Russia has humiliated us for 300 years?' **– Shamil Basayev**

"The aim [of the operation] was to take the town and fight the Russian forces at close quarters," he said.

His fighters undoubtedly control most of Grozny, driving around in captured government Volga cars and police jeeps. Every district has its own headquarters with a top commander in charge.

Every approach to the Russian positions is manned by fighters, recognisable by their camouflage uniforms and berets with green Islamic headbands. The green flag of the independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, with its distinctive white-red-white bands, is sewn on their uniforms or berets.

They were polite, especially to a journalist from Britain, which retains a good reputation in Chechnya from pre-revolutionary times. Any suspicion they showed was instantly dispelled by a pass bearing Mr Basayev's personal red stamp, with its emblem of the lone wolf.

Mr Basayev is a hero in Chechnya and commands the unswerving loyalty of his fighters. He sat calmly in his cellar, just off the central market, dressed in a blue-and-white-striped Russian army T-shirt, his head shaved bald, showing a deep scar on his forehead from a motorcycle accident when he was a boy. Flies landed on his foot. Blood was still seeping through a bandage. A machine gun bullet broke a bone and struck a vein when he was hit two days ago, he said.

"For me it is minor, a trifle," he said. He could run if it was essential. Meanwhile he was on crutches, he said, pointing to a pair in the corner.

Russian forces launched another attempt to break through to the city's stadium from the east on Wednesday, he said, but his fighters had held them off.

Russian infantry unsuccessfully launched another push on Thursday morning. Mr Basayev's deputy for the operation in Grozny, Aslanbek Ismailov, who also was his second-in-command at Budyonnovsk, was in charge of the latest fighting.

He said he was not interested in attacking the small Russian posts dotted around the town and on the main bridges. The Chechen side had even prepared leaflets to hand out to the Russians, suggesting they surrender. Fighters would run up to deliver them after shouting to them to hold fire, he said.

The Russian soldiers did not want to fight, Mr Basayev said, and were reluctant to leave their bases to storm the town again. Mr Basayev said the rebels' patience had run out after Moscow went back on its word to end the war peacefully when it launched bombing raids in the mountains in July.

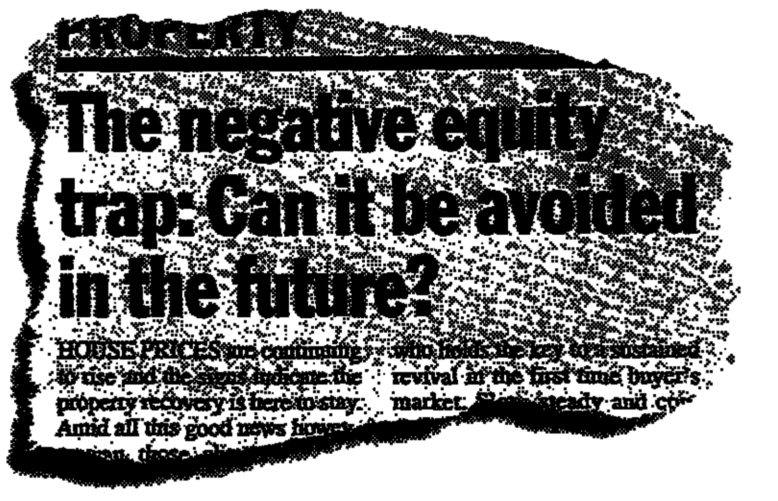
Asked if his humiliation of Russia would bring better results than peace talks, he said: "Do you not think Russia humiliated us for 300 years? It cannot even feed its own people, that is its humiliation. It should pay its hungry miners rather than spend money on this war. Soldiers were eating dogs from the streets here in January, they were so hungry," he said.

"The mortars are landing on our land, killing our people, and ruining our mountains and villages," he said.

Despite obvious tiredness and faintly shaking hands, Mr Basayev brightened when he described his fighters' success. They had captured several tanks and armoured personnel carriers, positioning them on the edge of the market to use against attacking helicopters and planes. The Russians now feared to fly close, he said.

He claimed he had personally shot down two planes with a machine gun in the battle for the town. He had lost only 35 men, with 80 wounded, few of them seriously. His estimates of Russian casualties ranged from 2,000 to 3,000, with over 200 armoured vehicles destroyed.

He was sceptical about Alexander Lebed's efforts to end the conflict. "I do not believe a single Russian man. The Russians are not people who keep their word," he said. "But there is a hope that we can do something to resolve our fate."



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Bloody 24 hours in a country ruled by guns

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

The need for controls on firearms becomes more pressing in the US

Frederick Davidson was scheduled to defend his master's thesis on Thursday before a panel of academics at the local State University. Instead, he produced a handgun and shot them to death, firing more than 20 rounds. Mr Davidson, 36, an army veteran, surrendered to campus police and was taken sobbing in handcuffs to a police car.

The shooting took place 10 miles from the site of the Republican convention, at San Diego University. In the wake of the shooting, which took place hours before Robert Dole's signature speech, gun control activists maintained yesterday that he and other Republicans have merely papered over their close ties to the National Rifle Association.

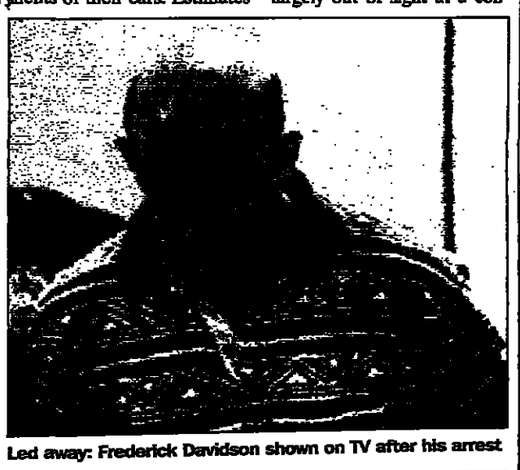
It was a bloody 24 hours in a country where death from shooting is a common occurrence. On the same day as the shooting, Texas police reported that Ernest Comegys, 70, terminally ill with cancer, fatally shot his cousin, wounded his stepdaughter and then killed himself. He had grabbed the handgun from his bedroom after becoming enraged by Mr Dole's nomination.

Gun control has become an issue in Britain after the murder of 16 children and a teacher in Dunblane, and the report from the Home Affairs Select Committee earlier this week. But the problem in America is on an epidemic scale. More and more Americans now have access to guns in their homes, offices, and the glove compartments of their cars. Estimates for the number of handguns in circulation in the US run as high as 222 million, or about one for every man, woman and child in the nation. Firearms deaths run at an annual rate of about 40,000. Mr Davidson used a heavy .9mm handgun, frequently the weapon of choice for America's criminals, and, increasingly, its police forces. Gun rights groups in California have campaigned for it to join the growing number of states which now freely issue licenses for people to carry concealed weapons.

Mr Dole, in his speech accepting the Republican Party's nomination, mentioned a promised "national instant check" system for sales of handguns, whereby buyers would have their criminal records checked by computer at the point of sale. But Handgun Control Inc, a public interest group, claimed yesterday that Mr Dole's proposal is simply a manoeuvre to placate the gun lobby.

Only a fifth of criminal history records are currently computer-accessible. Instead, the "instant check" would mainly serve to remove the five-day waiting period currently required for handgun purchases, which is enshrined in the "Brady law", said Terry Chesmar of the gun control pressure group. The law was passed in 1993 after a long and bitter campaign by the National Rifle Association to block it, and Mr Dole voted against it.

The gun lobby remained largely out of sight at a convention which was intended to stress the Republicans' moderate and inclusive appeal. But Handgun Control Inc activists staged a demonstration outside a $1,000-a-ticket party given by the actor Charlton Heston. The party, at San Diego's Planet Hollywood restaurant, was to launch Mr Heston's new political action committee aimed at channelling campaign funds to suitable Republican candidates. Mr Heston has appeared in widely-televised commercials for the NRA, though he is said to want to broaden his image.



Led away: Frederick Davidson shown on TV after his arrest

Life's a gas: Two exhausted South Korean policemen take a break on the campus at Yonsei University in Seoul, where thousands of riot police have spent three days trying, and so far failing, to arrest some 3,600 students for holding an outlawed reunification rally Photograph: Reuter

Greek PM stays away from Cyprus funeral

Athens (Reuter) — The Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis cancelled plans to attend the funeral yesterday of a Greek Cypriot demonstrator in an apparent effort to defuse tensions on the divided island.

The decision came as the Cypriot government in Nicosia appealed to people for restraint hours before the funeral rites took place for the Greek Cypriot man shot dead during an anti-Turkish demonstration.

Mr Simitis will fly to the island today to boost morale and to join a Cypriot national council meeting, called to tackle a crisis that erupted after one Greek Cypriot youth was beaten to death on Sunday and the second was shot dead on Wednesday in clashes between Turkish forces and civilians after Greek Cypriot demonstrators entered the buffer zone dividing the island. United Nations peace-keepers were also injured.

"We thought it was more constructive to attend the national council meeting than the funeral," a senior government adviser said.

But Greek media widely reported that Mr Simitis decided to skip the funeral following talks with the Cypriot government, which agreed his presence might exacerbate the ill feeling on the island.

Mr Simitis had issued an unusually passionate statement after the second Greek Cypriot was killed, branding the Turkish army occupying the north of Cyprus as common criminals. He had vowed to attend the funeral but a government statement yesterday said Greece would be represented at the ceremony by the deputy education minister George Paschalides.

The revised approach was also evident in comments by Mr Simitis to the press during an armed forces reception on Thursday.

"We need calmness because if we lose our temper we only serve our opponents. We have gained great ground with the international community since the start of the year and this is the course we must follow," Mr Simitis said.

"Strong armed forces are a guarantee for our policy of peace, friendship and co-operation in the area," he added.

Mr Simitis arranged to chair a special cabinet meeting yesterday to review the situation and today he will decide a common line of action at the national council of Cyprus, with Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and the heads of the opposition parties.

Cyprus has been a major issue of contention between Greece and Turkey, both members of Nato, since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied the north of the island following a coup in Nicosia by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Greece has vetoed millions of dollars of European Union funding to Turkey and has tried to emphasise Ankara's human rights record to block it from getting closer to the EU.

The two neighbours also bicker over territorial rights. Their navies almost clashed in January, over an uninhabited rock in the eastern Aegean, on the day Mr Simitis took office. His handling of the crisis was widely criticised in Greece as too meek; he agreed to take down the Greek flag from the islet and accepted a compromise brokered by the United States.

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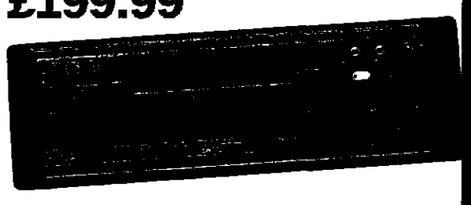

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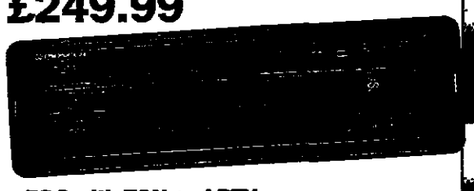

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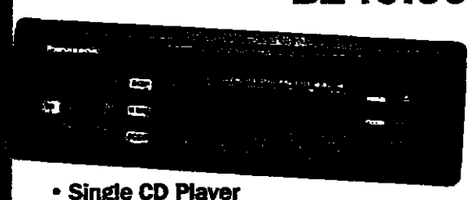

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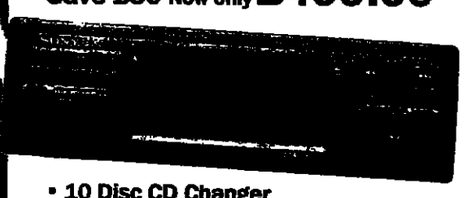

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international

Suharto: Warned of risks

Suharto endorses 'red scare' and rules out political reform

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Thirty years after anti-Communist pogroms left half a million of his countrymen dead, President Suharto of Indonesia yesterday warned that the country is still at risk from left-wing insurgents, and rejected any possibility of reform after violent pro-democracy demonstrations in Jakarta last month.

Mr Suharto was giving his "state of the nation" speech, an annual address marking the 51st anniversary of Indonesia's independence, which is celebrated today in parades and ceremonies across the country. Despite three decades of unchallenged rule, the president has never been noted for his powers as an orator. Apart from endorsing the "red scare" started by his generals three weeks ago, yesterday's speech was significant mainly for the subjects it failed to address: the corruption, political uncertainty and economic inequity which, many Indonesians believe, lie at the root of the present unrest.

Above all, he failed to mention his own plans for the next few years. 75-years-old and dogged by rumours of ill health, he is in the second half of his sixth unopposed term. Presidential elections will be held in 1998, and Mr Suharto has given no firm indication so far of whether or not he will stand.

The uncertainty about his intentions, and the lack of any obvious and credible successor, appear to be at the heart of simmering tensions which boiled over on 27 July in riots that left at least four people dead and a dozen buildings gutted. They were triggered by police raids on the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), and the arrest of followers of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the PDI's popular leader who is campaigning for a reform of Indonesia's highly constrained political system.

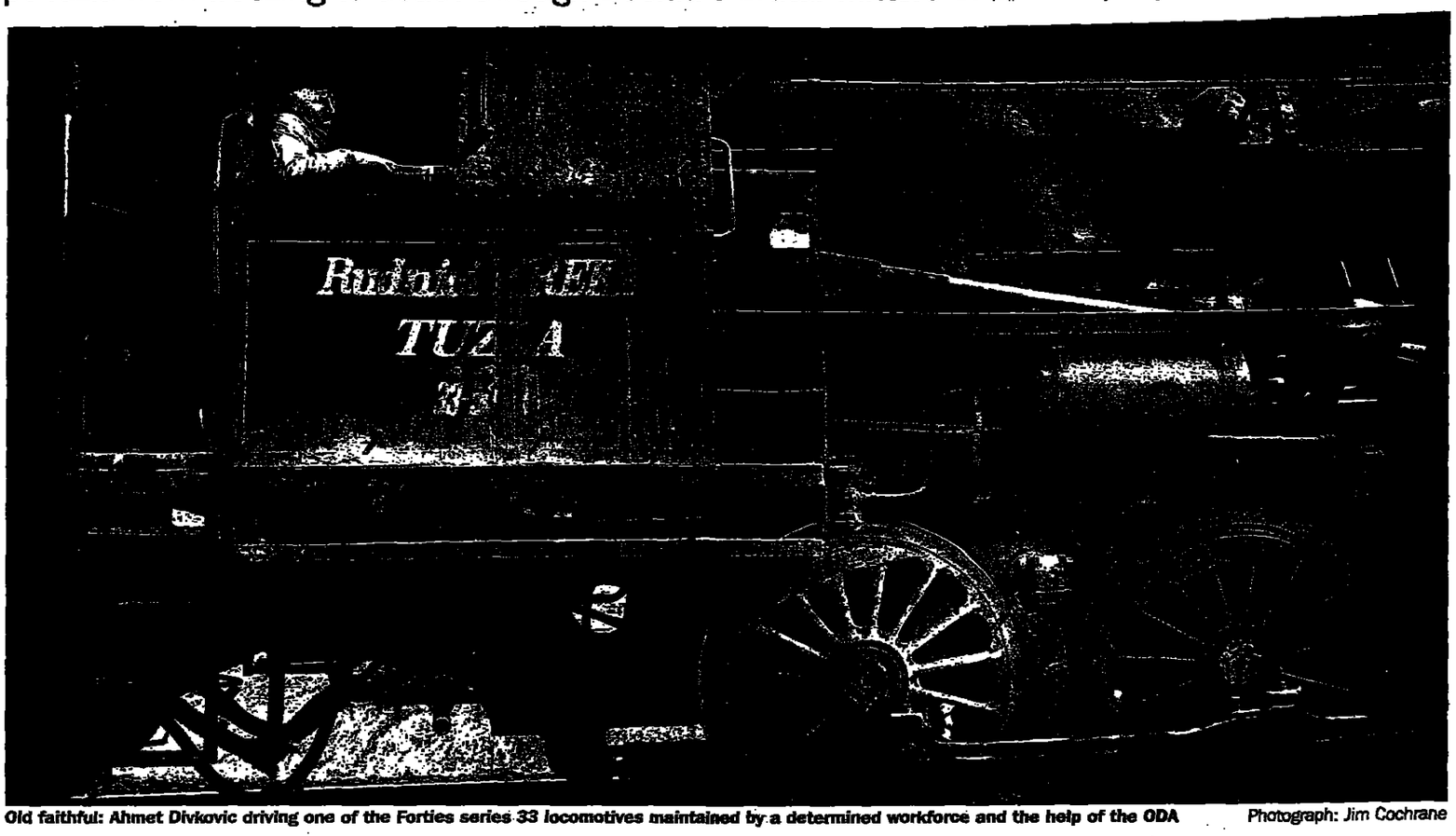
Within days of the riots, officers in the powerful Indonesian armed forces (Abri) were blaming them on the People's Democratic Party (PRD), a small left-wing organisation, which they liken to the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). The PKI was persecuted into oblivion after an alleged coup attempt in 1966 in the aftermath of which Mr Suharto came to power. In the last fortnight, the police and Abri have arrested dozens of PRD members on suspicion of the capital crime of subversion.

"The imposition of one's will and changes by force, the destruction and burning of buildings and public facilities are acts of anarchy, undemocratic and irresponsible," Mr Suharto said yesterday. "These riots had nothing to do with democracy. Their perpetrators and participants will be held accountable for their actions before the law ... We are determined never to allow the recurrence of a PKI rebellion in our homeland.

"If we are not yet satisfied with the role played by the three forums of our political forces, let us improve the existing forums," he said. "And not by establishing a new forum where the support of people is still entirely unclear."

A dozen steam locomotives kept Tuzla from freezing to death through Bosnia's brutal winters of conflict, reports **Emma Daly**

Warhorses that saved besieged city's life



Old faithful: Ahmet Divkovic driving one of the Forties series 33 locomotives maintained by a determined workforce and the help of the ODA Photograph: Jim Cochrane

The roar of the furnace, the wind in your hair, the charm of a gentle chug – it is the first inkling of the joy that steam trains inspire in the enthusiastic amateur. And these particular engines are life-savers, old-fashioned old faithfuls that kept a city going through siege and snow and misery.

But we are in the Balkans, where nothing is as you expect, so of course the drivers who spend their days in the oily cabs once used by Hitler's army are longing for the modern convenience of diesel locomotives. "I've driven these engines for 20 years and it's very hard and dirty work," said Ibrahim Klincevic, chief driver at the dilapidated and weed-infested railway sidings of the Kreka coal mine in Tuzla, northern Bosnia.

"Can we have a diesel engine as a present?" Mato Markelic asked hopefully. "It could be small, it doesn't need to be big," Mr Klincevic added.

Trains have played a bizarre role in the Bosnian war: there has been more than one attempt to turn a train into a lethal weapon, packed with explosives and rolled towards an enemy town. A couple of branch lines were kept open by miraculous means, and one train was towed by a lorry, but most of the network was unusable, littered with mines, bridges blown.

But Tuzla was lucky, and the men do not underplay the work done by the steam trains. The city, its population swollen by 250,000 refugees, was under siege and in despair for much of the war, short of food, water and fuel. Without the locomotives hauling coal from the mines to the city's huge, hideous power station, to generate electricity for almost a million people, Tuzla would have frozen to death and its factories and hospitals would have shut down.

"These steam trains should be given medals," Mustafa Saracevic, resident steam buff at the Kreka mine, said. "How could we have lived without electricity throughout the war?" As the war progressed, the elderly engines started to stumble for want of vital spare parts, and Mr Saracevic issued an emergency appeal to the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) on the grounds that the British love steam trains and might help. Mike Bristow at the ODA came to the rescue, with £22,000 worth of grease, oil and white metal, and got the trains back on track. "That was the only method of getting coal from the mines to the power station," Mr Bristow said.

Tuzla was not heavily shelled for most of the war, but it was virtually cut off, particularly during 1993, when the Muslim-Croat war in central Bosnia was at its peak.

The populace was entirely dependent on humanitarian aid, but the food lorries were forced to run a dangerous gauntlet of big guns along a route known to foreigners as "bomb alley", and supplies were erratic. "The convoys would be coming tomorrow and then just not appear," Mr Bristow said.

In the brutal Bosnian winter heating is vital, and those who could not afford to buy wood were dependent on the centralised heating system that ran water warmed by the power station through the city's grim apartment blocks.

The steam engines also carried passengers, most of them workers, between Tuzla and small towns nearby – no ticket required. "During the war there was no other way to travel," Zaim Mostarlic, a machine operator charged with patching up the engines in a small, grimy workshop, said. There are tales, too, of televisions and other big-city consumer goods shipped to the front-line villages to be bartered for potatoes and other basics.

> 'These trains deserve medals ... it was the only way of getting coal'

Eight of the locomotives are German series 33 engines built by Krupp in the early Forties and used by Hitler on the Eastern Front during the Second World War. The other four are series 62, based on a French design and built in the Fifties in Slavonski Brod, a Yugoslav town that now stands on Croatia's border with Bosnia-Herzegovina. And despite the drivers' complaints, the beasts will be around for a while – the men are repainting the engines red and green, with red and white wheels and a golden lily, the symbol of Bosnia.

"I loved steam engines when I was a kid, but it's a great feeling when you drive a new engine," Mr Klincevic said wistfully as the engine bumped and ground to a halt with a hiss of steam. "It's like a new car – you know, Mercedes versus Trabant."

Mr Saracevic refused an offer for the trains from an Austrian museum before the war, and may do so again. "Now that the war is over we are probably going to have to substitute diesels for them soon," he said.

"We will preserve these and wait for the next war. That is the law here. We have them quite often."

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SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Strikes gripped key Australian industries yesterday, erupting into violence at one picket line, in the face of planned changes to the labour market. An oil refinery, car plant and bottle-making factory in Victoria have been shut or severely disrupted by growing wage disputes. Strikers outside a Melbourne bottle-making plant withstood an attempt by baton-wielding police to breach a picket line.

Industrial tension has been building since Australia's main conservative political parties won election in March, pledging to free up the labour market and weaken union influence. *Reuter – Melbourne*

Belgian police have rescued two kidnapped girls aged 12 and 14, in the first successful conclusion to a series of child disappearances which have been linked to paedophiles. Two men and a woman were arrested. *La Derniere Heure* newspaper said 14 girls and one boy had disappeared in the past six years. *Reuter – Brussels*

Two more white men were indicted with conspiring to burn a black church, a day after two white men pleaded guilty to a similar charge. The men, both former members of the Ku Klux Klan, were accused of conspiring to burn a church in Bloomville in June 1995. *AP – Charleston*

Child prostitution in Estonia has become a serious problem and needs to be tackled, a Social Affairs Ministry chancellor, Jaan Ruutman, said. He said about 1,000 children were engaged in prostitution. *AP – Tallinn*

The defence of "homosexual panic" in murder trials is to be reviewed in New South Wales. The Australian state ordered the legal review of the Homosexual Advance Defence, which argues that homosexual advances are a provocation for murder, because of its growing usage. The defence had been used in 13 criminal trials in the state since 1993. *Reuter – Sydney*

With charges of torture in Palestinian jails growing, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has agreed to give the Red Cross access to his prisons. Amnesty International called for the immediate release of two Palestinian police officers who have not been heard from since their arrests in May and July. *AP – Hebron*

Riots flared in the Jordanian city of Karak as scores of demonstrators protested at an increase in bread prices. *Amman*

The rickshaw has fallen victim to traffic and will be barred from Calcutta's clogged streets. Hand-pulled rickshaws and carts are to be banned from the city at the end of the year. *Reuter – Calcutta*

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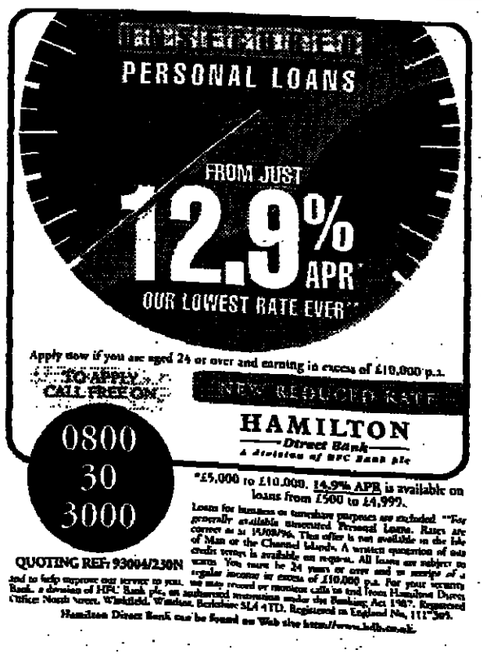

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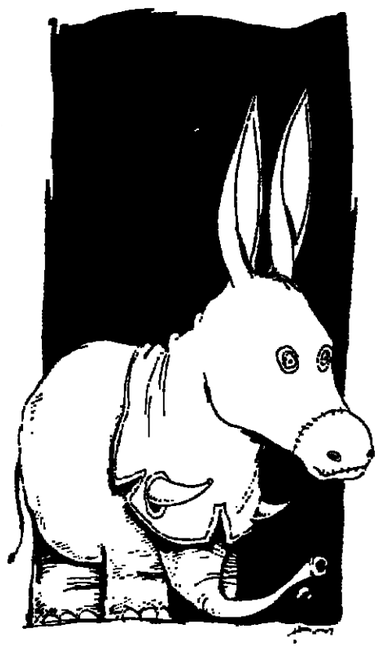
Whitewater, not Dole, is Clinton's main worry

The curtain has fallen and first of all, one cheer for the producers. The Republicans put on a fabulous show in San Diego this week. Were they not supposed to be the party of intolerance, cherished by gun-toting rednecks, anti-immigrant xenophobes, abortion clinic bombers, and economic Darwinists for whom success in the marketplace is the only guarantee of survival? Instead, for four days, America was treated to a symphony of moderation. Not a spokesman of the religious right was heard from the podium. Women were everywhere, delivering the keynote address, lambasting Bill Clinton, holding forth about defence and foreign policy – and this from a party which before the convention was trailing the Democrats among female voters by some 30 per cent. But American political conventions are an exercise in the suspension of disbelief. By this measure, to use Bob Dole's characteristically laconic numerical scale of excellence, this one rated a 10, maybe an 11, for sleight of hand and image makeover from the 1992 Houston convention of dark memory, when Pat Buchanan ruled and the downfall of George Bush was sealed.

But a convention is ultimately mere packaging. What now for the product? Given his dismal record as an orator, Bob Dole made a fair fist of it on Thursday evening. Trust me, he asked his countrymen, contrasting himself to the self-indulgent, deceitful baby-boomer in the White House. He was, he claimed less plausibly, "the most optimistic man in America" – although his entire acceptance speech was posited on the premise that the country of his youth was a godlier, nobler place than the one led by Bill Clinton. There were some purple passages, and some meandering litanies of vague intentions, at best tedious, at worse scary, all typical Dole. Thanks to his convention managers, he now has a chance of winning in November. A chance, but no more.

Mr Dole has several assets. His wife, Elizabeth, is graceful and exceedingly accomplished, possessed of a political acumen for which Hillary Clinton would kill. In Jack Kemp he has a splendid running mate, inspirational, nationally known, and a credible president should anything happen to a chief executive partially disabled and 73 years old. Above all there is the incredible Dole life story, how he overcame war wounds that would have broken the body and soul of a lesser man, and the huge moral authority that flows from it. But the role of preachy grandfather has risks. Mr Dole's speech pressed the usual Republican buttons on crime, taxes and education and defence: but *nothing in his exhortations to patriotism*, decency and the American Dream suggested he has a clue about the everyday problems of modern life.

Not so the man he will face in November, the most skilful campaigner in recent American political history. On 26 August, the Democrats will have their chance in Chicago, directing their convention fire less at Mr Dole than the mean-spirited, ultra-conservative Republican platform



the candidate professes not even to have read. As measured by the attending delegates (most of them wisely prevented from speaking), this was the most right-wing Republican convention of modern times. The Democrats will not let him forget that.

There are other handicaps as well. Ross Perot is not the force he was in 1992 but still has a $2bn personal fortune. Assuming he wins his own Reform Party's nomination this weekend, he will take more votes from Mr Dole than from President Clinton. The Dole "vision" is still next to non-existent: stripped of the purple passages inserted by his speechwriters, his address was plodding. And, despite the verbal firepower provided by Jack Kemp, that high priest of the supply-side, Mr Dole's tax-cut proposals don't add up, either literally or figuratively. Why, when the economy is thriving and the deficit falling, should his countrymen get rid of an incumbent President who after a miserable start seems to have got the hang of his job.

Somehow Mr Dole must make virtues of his perceived weaknesses. He has to convince a country of short memory, and weaned on hyperbole, that understatement and half a century old heroism have their merits. That chance, curiously, may come in the three Presidential debates this autumn, widely but wrongly assumed to be a walkover for the touchy-feely Bill Clinton. Expectations for Mr Dole are so low that a draw would be a victory. And the self-deprecating one-liner, sadly not on display on Thursday evening, is a Dole speciality. Just one sardonic pin to burst a balloon of Clintonian verbosity could work wonders. Nothing though, after Colin Powell's triumph in San Diego this week, would do more for Mr Dole's cause than the early enlistment of the general, either as regular featured stump-speaker, or, better still, as Secretary of State for Defense in a future Dole administration. But it will be an uphill struggle, unless Whitewater goes critical.

Therein probably lies Mr Dole's best hope. Mr Clinton's support is broad but shallow. If nothing else, in San Diego this week the stale old warrior of Congress has been re-introduced to his country as a moral hero, poised to take advantage of a new flare-up of the Clinton "character question". And suddenly the terrain looks promising for Republicans. A grand jury in Washington is deliberating whether to indict Mrs Clinton for perjury, while in Little Rock, James McDougal, the Clintons' partner in the original Whitewater land venture who was convicted of fraud in May, *is said to be co-operating* with prosecutors in the hope of a lighter jail sentence.

The Dole campaign looks better today than it has ever looked before. But the election may yet be settled, not by this week's nominee, nor by the incumbent President, but by Kenneth Starr, unelected special counsel in the Whitewater affair who is at present the most powerful politician in America.

▪ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ▪

Better A-level results since schools banished fear from the classroom

Sir: Once again we are questioning standards at A-level now that this year's record results are out. The exams are assumed to be too easy, but no one is looking at the great improvements that have been made in the standards of teaching at all levels.

Thirty years ago, teaching was largely done through fear. We were all given a fear of failure. Those who coped did well but many pupils with loads of potential but fragile personalities fell by the wayside. Now, the emotional needs of children are paramount to their future success and pupils can now look forward to genuine care and concern through counsellors and well-trained tutors. Most school children now like their school teachers and see them as kind, caring and above all normal people. Fear has gone and a much more healthy working relationship has developed. Happy, well-supported young people learn far better and many more of them achieve their potential. This is why the results continue to improve.

Employers complain of poor literacy standards. For this they should look at the role of television, video and PCs in the lives of young people. A spellchecker now does the job far more quickly than using a dictionary and mini-computers do the maths in a split second. This is surely human evolution rather than poor standards.
DAVID WEALE
London NW5

Sir: One important point has been overlooked in the debate about improved A-level results: since the introduction of league tables schools and colleges are increasingly reluctant to enter those candidates who are uncertain of achieving a pass grade. I recently spoke to nine examiners and, without exception, they observed that this year there was not the "tail" of very weak candidates.

Of the nine, eight also felt that there was an improvement in the overall quality of scripts and put this down to the fact that students were better prepared to meet the demands of the paper.
JANET PYBON
Preston, Lancashire

Sir: Would the alleged decline in the standards of A-level grades have any connection with competition between examination boards to persuade schools to register with them rather than their rivals?
MARTIN LYNN
London SW4

Sir: The concern over standards of A-level examinations is justified. Thankfully my daughter has just been granted a university place. However, I am acutely aware that her general knowledge is poor and this was confirmed when I devised the following set of questions.
1) Who was President of the US before Clinton?
2) What is the capital of South Africa?
3) In what year did the First World War commence?
4) What does PAYE stand for?
5) Name two fossil fuels.
6) Who wrote *La Traviata*?
7) Name one Graham Greene novel.
8) Who designed St.Paul's Cathedral?
9) What is the currency of India?
10) Which British newspaper has the largest circulation?

She scored only two (questions one and five). I find this appalling. Are we devoting too much time to ensuring pupils are crammed with facts to pass exams while neglecting their overall knowledge and awareness of the world around them?
R RILEY
Hawkhurst, Kent

Prescott, Blair and Labour principles

Sir: My heart leapt for joy when I read John Prescott's plea for a return to "principles" in Labour Party politics during his interview with Colin Brown (16 August). The effect was, however, rather spoilt when John went on to admit that he had "headed up" a team which masterminded the least principled election in the history of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

No one should be in any doubt about what happened in the Shadow cabinet election. Some candidates were threatened into not standing, others were offered favours and, if that was not enough, the proxy voting system was abused.

Surely honest John has been in politics long enough to understand that without free and fair elections politics can never be principled. I would not like John to go down in political history as the man whose only principle was lack of principle. I therefore advise him to read Tony Benn's excellent book *Arguments for Democracy*.

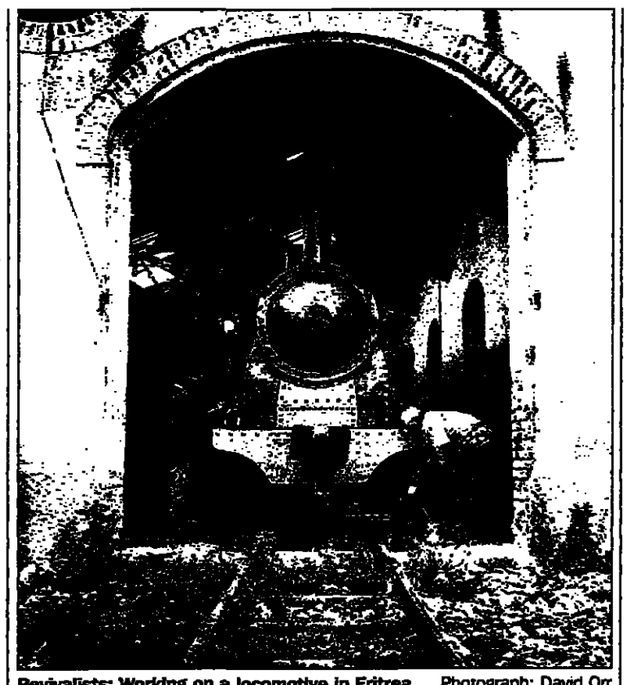
There is, however, one point upon which I agree with John and Tony Blair and that is that my estimable colleague Clare Short should stop whingeing, stop talking about herself and come out fighting on matters of policy.
BRIAN SEDGEMORE MP
(Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: Nick Brown ("Labour to crack the whip on MPs",15 August) says "the election is fought by national political parties, and the role of the individual, although important, is subservient to the role of the party". This is only a half truth.

MPs are elected to keep a party in office but they are also elected as the only people with effective power to check a government drawn from that party. The job of a backbench MP is only possible if these two potentially divergent responsibilities can be run in tandem. If a Blair government intends that one of these responsibilities should automatically prevail over the other, it would complete the transition which began with the onset of election television, from a parliamentary to a presidential system of government. If Mr Blair intends to introduce a presidential system he must also introduce the constitutional safeguards appropriate to such a system, beginning with a written constitution.
Earl RUSSELL
Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Social Security
House of Lords
London SW1

Sir: The Conservative Party seems ill-advised to have produced an advertisement in which it sees Tony Blair as a satanic monster ("Speak of the devil", 13 August) for the folklore surrounding vampires and other hell-hounds clearly suggests that, when in human form, these creatures can only be recognised by a demon of the same family.
DENNIS WALKER
Oakham, Leicestershire

Sir: The demonisation of a leading politician has a distinguished precedent. William Hogarth's *John Wilkes Esqr* was published on 16 May 1763. It shows Wilkes wearing a wig organised to suggest horns, leering wickedly, and bearing – jauntily posed atop his staff – a Liberty cap. May we hope that Blair might live up to this?
Professor MARCIA POINTON
Department of History of Art
University of Manchester



Revivalists: Working on a locomotive in Eritrea Photograph: David Orr

Eritrean railways win through

Sir: It is interesting to have news of the resurrection of the Eritrean Railway ("Old timers put Eritrea's trains back on the rails", 7 August). We resurrected it once before – in 1941.

This remarkable little railway was originally, I believe, built by the French. Its 95cm gauge track drops through barren mountains for 1.5 miles in the 40 miles from Asmara down to Massawa.

After the heroic victory at Keren by the 4th Indian Division the 10th Royal Engineers Railway Company followed up to get it running again. This we did, with the co-operation of the locals and I am pleased to see that they are resurrecting the railway yet again. We, at length, were sent back overland (via barges up the Nile) to the Western Desert for several more years.
ELLIS MILES
Stamford, Lincolnshire

Ban weapons but save shooting

Sir : I have been amazed by the reasons the gun lobby and the Commons committee have given for refusing any form of ban on guns. The same saying is always trotted out at times like this as if it is a gun owner's mantra: "Guns don't kill people, people do."

A gun is a weapon, a tool specifically designed for efficiently killing people. Since killing and maiming are illegal, shouldn't the possession and sale of the tools designed to do just that also be illegal?

The defence of gun owners that if someone wants to kill, they will, is true. Virtually anything can be used to kill, a broken chair leg for example; but without a weapon it is more difficult, it is easier to defend against and it is easier for the police to deal with. All weapons, handguns, rifles or combat knives, should be banned.

The sport of shooting doesn't have to suffer. Single-shot rifles and pistols designed for sport could still be allowed at gun clubs.

The call for more gun controls from the relatives of the Dunblane victims is no panicked cry for revenge. Instead it is a simple conclusion – in a civilised society no one should be allowed to own weapons.
RICHARD TUNNICLIFFE
Cwmbran,
Gwent

Sir: Your editorial (14 August) does you no credit, and your suggestion that the shooting community has any less sympathy than the public at large for the Dunblane parents, let alone considers them a "screaming mob", is beneath contempt.

The "gun culture" you refer to exists largely in the imaginings of the media and politicians. Most sporting shooters are no more fanatical about guns than golfers are about golf clubs, viewing them solely as equipment with which to enjoy a skilled, satisfying, and above all safe, sport, and the vast majority of handguns used for sporting purposes are not, contrary to your leader, designed "primarily to shoot people".

You state that, with legally held guns under lock and key, "only when kept and traded illegally would they pose a problem" – or, to put it another way, by savagely curtailing the innocent pastimes of one of the most law-abiding communities in the land, 99 per cent or more of firearm-related crime will remain wholly unaffected.

To demand new legislation, without even claiming or expecting it will achieve anything positive, simply because "nothing less will satisfy the public", is a shallow use of a major newspaper's leader page.
D T ARGENT
Horsham,
West Sussex

Ancient cruelties

Sir: P J Stewart (letters, 14 August) misses the point. The issue is not the rationale behind the growth of empires but the question of innocence. Both Christianity and Islam perpetrated cruelties on their conquered and subject people to varying degrees and at various times. Robert Fisk's shy visitor who wanted the Pope to apologise for the Crusades was not wrong to suggest it, but it would be salutary for all sides to confess to past depredations and utter a sincere "*mea maxima culpa*". We could then get on with a constructive dialogue about, amongst other things, peace in the Middle East and non-aggressive co-existence between our different and valued cultures.

However, given Islam's current perception of itself as a victim and only a victim in its encounter with Christianity, Judaism and Zionism this seems unlikely to happen – to everyone's lasting loss.
JOHN D NORMAN
London W3

Odds stacked against university science

Sir: Not wishing to incite panic among the nation's engineers, I am writing to correct an error of detail which I made while explaining how the universities cope if popular departments over-recruit ("Record grades trigger the race for places", 15 August).

Universities have complete discretion to move student numbers between departments, so as to avoid exceeding their total student number, which is set by the Funding Council. However, it is not correct to say, as I did, that over-recruitment in English can lead to a reduction in the numbers of engineering students. This is because that flexibility extends only within subjects in the same fee band.

Over-recruitment of English students would lead other classroom-based subjects to lower their recruitment. The same might happen within the laboratory and workshop-based subjects, in the (alas) rather unlikely event that one of them were over-subscribed. Over-recruitment in biology, for example, could lead universities to cut engineers, chemists or physicists.

However, such is the widespread unpopularity of all science and technology subjects that this would probably be a rare event indeed. Universities do all they can to encourage the recruitment to science and technology. But until society (and employers) value graduates in these subjects properly, the odds are stacked against them.
Dr TED NIELD
Press and Public Relations Manager
Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals
London WC1

Pigs in luxury

Sir: I am delighted that scientists have taken just one year to perfect the indoor en suite shower for pigs (report, 15 August).

It has taken organic farmers several thousand years to perfect their system for keeping pigs cool, but it involves a complex and unpredictable combination of wind, rain, mud, snow, sun and shade. I am worried that some of our sows will see the article and will demand that we install this novel technology. We will have no alternative but to agree, in exchange for them accepting life in a dark stall in a smelly building where the principal entertainment will be biting each others' tails, unless they've been chopped off already.
TIM FINNEY
Eastbrook Farm Organic Meats
Swindon, Wiltshire

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LETTER *from* THE EDITOR

One of the most engaging "Not For Publication" letters I received this week came from a couple who were concerned (in the politest possible way) about whether we were drifting away from the central newspaper business of carrying the news. The answer is emphatically "no" – but it's the kind of question that reminds you, not only how varied people's ideas of "news" are, but also how firmly they are convinced that their definition of news is absolutely and incontrovertibly the correct one.

Some journalists are fond of defining it with the sort of one-liner that says something like, "news is what you didn't know yesterday". Such definitions may be quite useful as media studies exam questions, but they're not much help when you're making hour-to-hour decisions about what to put in a newspaper. The truth is that editors put things in their paper because their guts, like a cook's nose, tell them it's what their readers want.

Which is why that letter was interesting – because it specifically defined news as what's going on in "Burundi, etc ... not pictures of butterflies".

Intriguingly, almost the next letter I read came from a reader objecting to our carrying a front-page story and picture about the recent massacre in Burundi, on the grounds that it was distressing. And the next letter after that came from someone who was "delighted by the butterflies, not least because they made a break from all the scenes of carnage". Which just goes to prove you can't please all the people, all the time.

You can try though – and last Saturday's butterflies did seem to please an awful lot of readers. The only item in the postbag outnumbering congratulations for our lepidopteral photomontage was letters about abortion. The most intriguing aspect of this story, to me, has been the way in which the moral focus has shifted. It started on the woman and her twins; it shifted to the pro-lifers; then to the medical ethics; then to the journalistic ethics of searching out the woman; and now it has shifted back to the doctor and the ethics of disclosure. It makes you wonder whether anyone can remain clear-eyed about moral absolutes – let alone news values.

Is it not also striking that we regard the manner of political campaigning (this week's demonisation of Tony Blair by the Tories, for example) as being as significant a political event as any argument over policy? I was taught that style is inseparable from content; if that still holds true, surely the style of an election campaign tells us something about the ideas in its perpetrators' heads?

And if news is defined as what's new – well, A-level results wouldn't figure much. As a former education correspondent, I can confidently say that I have seen all of this week's A-level stories several times before. In the education world, there is nothing new under the sun. But that doesn't diminish each year's drama: the moment, which most students will never forget, of opening that envelope and feeling either shattered, or relieved, or elated beyond expectation. The results are news every year because they touch so many people – parents, brothers, sisters, friends. But they are also good news, because so many young people now go on from their A-levels to university, giving us a vastly better educated workforce.Anyone who really thinks we are going backwards educationally has forgotten how bad it was when we kept college education for the very few.

> **Anyone who really thinks we are going backwards educationally has forgotten how bad it was when we kept college education for the very few**

Still, those who missed a proper education the first time round can catch up with our DIY University summer school, appearing each weekday on the Commentators page. Next week you get DNA, economics, and a bundle of other wonders. Stick with it.

Colin Hughes
Deputy Editor

QUOTE UNQUOTE

This report and its findings are a disgrace to our Parliament. The gun lobby can breathe a sigh of relief – **John Crozier**, *who lost his daughter Emma, five, in the Dunblane massacre, after the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee rejected a ban on handguns*

I have been active in Northern Ireland, Central America, the Falklands ... and I get shot buying a Chinese takeaway – **Peter Drissel**, *RAF wing commander, who was shot five times by Richard Humphrey, the killer who bought his guns by mail order*

It's difficult to swim in hydrochloric acid with your legs chopped off – **Alexander Lebed**, *Russian security chief, describing the task he faces trying to reach a long-term settlement in Chechnya*

I hadn't looked at that dress for 30 years but thank goodness it was there – **Eileen Norton**, *pensioner, whose wedding dress in the loft of her house in Havant, Hampshire, broke the fall of a block of ice from a passing aircraft after it crashed through the roof*

The sweetness of a cream cake combined with its creamy mouthfeel are natural stimulators of the pleasure pathways in the brain, a response that guards against disease – **Professor David Warburton**, *co-ordinator of Associates for Research into the Science of Enjoyment (Arise)*

Business executives and city speculators are nervously awaiting a Labour government, writes **Michael Harrison**

Who's afraid of Tony Blair?

It is lunchtime in Belgravia, and the chief executive of a large privatised utility is holding court in one of the capital's more exclusive eateries. He is contemplating what life would be like under a Labour government. More specifically, he is contemplating the damage that Gordon Brown's windfall utilities tax would do.

As the asparagus and wild mushrooms slip down, an idea begins to form. Labour's windfall tax would rob £5bn from the privatised gas, electricity, water, telecoms and transport companies. What, then, would they have to lose by clubbing together and donating just 1 per cent of that amount to help get John Major re-elected?

Sadly, by the time the chef's special fishcakes arrive, the idea has already been consigned to the dustbin. It will, the executive reflects gloomily, take a lot more than £50m to save Mr Major's bacon. In any case, just think of the political fallout and, worse still, the screaming tabloid headlines: "Fat cat water bosses bale out Tories". If Mr Brown had any lingering doubts about squeezing the utilities until the pips squeak, that would surely extinguish them.

The mere fact that serious industrialists can spend time debating such ideas says something about what little else the business community knows of new Labour and what exactly is in Tony Blair's mind. Other than the commitment to a windfall tax, a national minimum wage and the European Union's Social Chapter, there is still little meat on the bone of Labour's policies for business.

Tony Blair says there will be no return to penal rates of taxation, but we do not know what the top rate of tax will be or at what point it will bite. He and the Shadow Chancellor have promised that there will be no short-term dash for growth or public spending binge. The foundation of Labour's economic policy will be "save and invest, not tax and spend".

But no one in business knows whether the Blairites will be able to hold the line if, say, Labour gets in with a landslide. How will it respond to all those expenditure demands from special-interest groups that have been denied a voice in Downing Street for the last 17 years?

Mr Blair says that Labour will reform the Bank of England to "insulate it from political manipulation". But does that really mean he will give the Bank, the very embodiment of the City establishment and City values, a genuinely free hand to set monetary policy?

New Labour promises that there will be no return to old-fashioned centralised state planning or the habit of picking industrial winners. Instead it will harness the resource of the capital markets in a genuine partnership between public and private funding.

On Wednesday 4 September, several hundred chief executives and senior directors will pay £470 a head to go along to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre to listen to Labour's front bench packaging all this together and presenting it in the shape of a prospectus for business. This will contain five policy pledges: low inflation and a fair tax system; a central role for Britain in Europe that is outward looking and anti-protectionist; a new drive to improve educational standards and skills; promotion and support for small businesses; and a new partnership between industry and government to rebuild Britain's infrastructure. There will be regional development agencies for England and more support for exporters, a new Office for Competition and Consumer Standards to oversee takeovers, new rules to curb boardroom pay and probably a new commission to police the City.

> The financial markets have already largely factored in a Blair victory, so far ahead is he in the polls

Absolutely none of this is costed. And yet the conventional wisdom is that new Labour holds few fears for business, while the financial markets have already largely factored in a Blair victory, so far ahead is he in the polls.

Take this assessment from Adair Turner, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry: "It is impossible to say that the removal of Clause IV from Labour's constitution hasn't caused a fundamental shift. There is a great deal more convergence between the two main parties than we have seen in the past. There are many things in Labour's *Road to the Manifesto* with which we agree in general terms, there are some issues on which we are seeking clarification, such as tax rates, and there are areas, such as the minimum wage and social chapter, with which we disagree. A lot of businesses are working on a Labour government being a significant possibility but not a certainty."

This sanguine view of Labour is partly explained by the fact that until an election is called, no one really has to confront the possibility. Why decide until you have to? But it also owes much to Mr Blair's soothing words. There is, in fact, nothing new in the fistful of pledges that he will set out on 4 September. It is exactly the same combination of apple pie and motherhood that he laid before the British Chambers of Commerce national conference in Birmingham six weeks ago.

But it seems to work. Mr Blair went down considerably better in the heartland of British manufacturing than the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang. It was not quite a Labour love-in, but journalists had to scour the corridors of Birmingham's new convention centre long and hard to find a dissenting voice. At the end of the conference, delegates voted in a ratio of 20 to 1 that Mr Blair would be the next prime minister.

This response from Bob Moore, chief executive of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and a former area director for Lloyds Bank, rather summed up the mood: "What we are seeing from Labour is a pragmatic approach to industry. There is an increasing sense that business would be comfortable with either party."

John Townsend, who chairs the East Midlands association of chambers, said: "Blair is convincing quite a body of the business community that Labour is now a party with which it can work. There is nowhere near the apprehension that there was five years ago."

It is not a view which is universally held. In last Wednesday's *Daily Mail*, Sir Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixon's, launched a ferocious broadside against the policies that lay beneath the Labour leader's "platitudinous waffle". He wrote: "Behind the half-baked nostrums of new Labour there lurks a programme which threatens our national prosperity just as seriously as the old-fashioned state socialism of the Seventies."

With its adherence to a national minimum wage, its ill-defined theory of stakeholding and its blithe support for the Social Chapter, Labour was exposed as the party that would destroy Britain's competitive edge, he went on. "The main problem is that Labour still seems to have a basic mistrust of entrepreneurs and wealth creators. It accuses companies of failing to invest, failing to train their workers, failing to have long-term outlook. But it's not a picture I recognise. It is a grotesque distortion, a self-hate image."

In truth, it was as much a rant against Brussels as against Mr Blair. Labour counter-attacked with immediate effect, highlighting not only Dixon's large contributions to Tory party funds but also the way Sir Stanley had awarded himself a 29 per cent pay rise last year in defiance of the Greenbury rules on boardroom remuneration.

Gerald Frankel, a former senior official at the National Economic Development Office who now runs Labour's Industry Forum, dismisses Sir Stanley's claims as "uninformed, absurd and very stupid". The forum has more than 200 members, including Tesco, British Gas and Glaxo Wellcome. "I can tell you that the chairmen of Hambros Bank, NatWest and 3i, who are all subscribers, would feel his views are rubbish, and they are not supporters of the Labour Party."

Few businessmen and still fewer leading City figures are prepared to stick their heads above the parapet in quite the way Sir Stanley has. There is little doubt, however, that he was articulating the private opinions of a sizeable minority.

There is an undertow of anxiety and hostility, arising not so much out of what is in Labour's manifesto, but what is left unstated. "What it really hinges on is the size of is majority" is a comment often heard in business circles when discussion turns to the next election. "Anything above 80 seats and Blair will have real difficulty sticking to his pledges on public spending," says one senior businessman. "In that case, all the promises about prudent management of the economy will be out the window."

It is not, interestingly enough, a view subscribed to by some of the big investment banks in the City, who live and die by forecasting the movement of currencies, interest rates, government bonds and equities.

Martin Brooks, a UK economist with the giant US bank Goldman Sachs, says that, if anything, the greatest risk to economic stability lies not in a Labour election victory but in the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, fuelling an unsustainable consumer boom through tax and interest rate cuts between now and polling day.

A Labour win, he says, would have little fundamental impact on either gilts (securities issued by the government to fund its spending programmes) or sterling, because macro-economic policy will not be that distinguishable. If that is correct, then Britain may be about to witness a sea change in the way business looks at politics, moving towards an American model in which large corporations are as likely to support the Democrats as the Republicans. In this scenario Tony Blair becomes Bill Clinton. The political dividing line ceases to be management of the economy, and becomes social policy.

The outlook for shares is less rosy. Goldman Sachs is forecasting that the FTSE-100 Index will be about 400 points lower this time next year, wiping some £57bn from the value of Britain's leading companies.

Here, Labour is mainly to blame. Apart from the windfall tax it plans to impose on the water, electricity, gas, transport and telecoms companies, a Labour victory would probably spell the end of the takeover boom and usher in higher corporate taxes.

If Sir Stanley Kalms is right, then there are cogent reasons for corporate Britain to fear a change of government. But when senior businessmen start sounding off about Labour, the suspicion inevitably stirs that what they are really concerned about is not the economy, nor particular industries, nor even individual firms, but the impact on their own pockets.

Imposing, say, a 60 per cent rate of tax on those earning more than £100,000 would bring in £1bn a year. Unlike John Smith's shadow budget in 1992, which helped cost Labour the election, the victims would be too few for the Conservatives to be able to persuade the electorate that it was a tax on self-improvement. Perhaps that slush fund to help re-elect Mr Major isn't such a bad idea after all.

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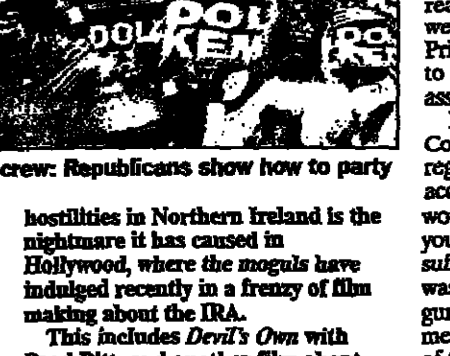
Jo Brand's week

A glance across the Atlantic at the Republican convention gives us some idea, I fear, of how our own political life will be conducted in the not-too-distant future. Party hats, things you blow and harmonica performances, I am sure, point the way to the McDonaldising of political campaigns on the shores of Blighty. Each speaker seems to be obliged to mention "the American Dream" at least once, to slag off Bill Clinton and to refer constantly to "the hard-working American" which immediately precludes those millions living the American nightmare.

"The Dole Express is pulling out of the station!" proclaimed one speaker with evangelical zeal, conjuring up an image of the prospective candidate collecting all the unemployed and driving them further towards the scrap heap. Underlying all this Republican bluster is the same old Victorian message about paying respect only to "the deserving poor" who keep their mouths shut, work their balls off for a pittance and get trodden on, but maintain their dignity. As for the ones who shout about their unfair lot, the heavily "Christian" Republicans at this convention ignore them. Thankfully old Doley is 20 points behind in the polls, so it doesn't look like this mob will get the chance to put their own special kind of Christianity into operation.

The farcical shebang was summed up by the playing of the *Monty Python* theme, "And now for something completely different" ... I don't think so.



Dole crew: Republicans show how to party

If I'm having a bad day, a dose of PMT or am just plain tired and irritable, I may be a bit short tempered. Faced with a big pile of mail as I sometimes am, I might have a moan, particularly if I have received another batch of "you're not much cop", letters. However, it is a very long way from my sour mood to the page, and I have always managed to stop myself whingeing in a letter to someone who has bothered to write to me. Thus, I find it amazing that Angela Rumbold got that far and aimed her bile at a pensioner. One can only draw the conclusion that she is a bitter, selfish and irritable person who is sick of her constituents.

Perhaps she'll get promotion.

One of the unforeseen problems thrown up by the resumption of hostilities in Northern Ireland is the nightmare it has caused in Hollywood, where the moguls have indulged recently in a frenzy of film making about the IRA.

This includes *Devil's Own* with Brad Pitt, and another film about the life of Michael Collins. Hollywood says it's worried about the effect these films will have on us all over here, should the Troubles continue.

Balls. Hollywood is worried about money. I suppose we should be grateful for a postponement. Hollywood's previous attempts at anything to do with any part of Ireland tend to consist of appalling accents, people bursting into song in pubs for no apparent reason, and embarrassing scripts. In fact, Hollywood ... don't bother at all.

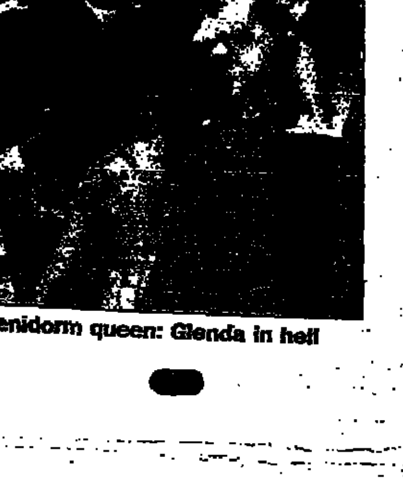
Wouldn't it be a joy if, just once, a member of the Royal Family went out on a limb and shocked us all with a useful emotional outburst, as opposed to the carefully worded, tactful and bland old crap they are normally forced to spout. A statement on the unacceptability of racism with some real oomph behind it is just the thing we could do with at the moment from Prince Charles. (Given his recent visit to Brixton with Nelson Mandela, one assumes he is an anti-racist.)

Prince Charles is honorary Colonel-In-Chief of the Cheshire regiment, some members of which are accused of racially abusing a black woman who was trying to defend a young black recruit, who, himself was suffering similar abuse. This woman was allegedly called "nigger" and had guns thrust at her. The trial of these men has been postponed because one of the defendants has a slipped disc, the poor lamb. If the men are convicted I think Charles should get stuck in and sort it out. Not a good idea to take any advice from his dad, though, I wouldn't have thought.

I noticed this weekend that one of the tabloids was glorying in having found another race of people to have a pop at. It seems the Russians are starting to replace the Germans as rude-foreigners-on-holiday. It has even got to the point that Germans and English are having to team up to fight the red menace as they nick the best sun-beds. Funny, I always thought the Reds went under the beds.

Poor old Glenda Jackson. I bet she had to grit her teeth like they've never been gritted before when she was offered the joyous task of tramping the beach in Benidorm to promote the Labour Party. I really can't think of anything worse than trying to persuade the Brits on their hols in Croydon-by-the-Sea to vote for Tone.

It seems it was a bit of an uphill struggle as she lighted upon tattooed lobster after tattooed lobster who professed an undying love for Lady Thatcher. I went to Benidorm once for about half an hour. Union Jacks hung from numerous balconies and drunk people staggered along the front suffering either sunstroke or alcohol poisoning and combining the two in that glorious Brit neanderthal abroad half-vomiting, half-leching demeanour. Into all this is plonked the cool and committed Glenda ... it must have been hell. Apparently she also gave up after half an hour. New Labour, new danger? In Glenda's case, a strangely apposite slogan.



Benidorm queen: Glenda in hell

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the commentators

What is an airport for?

It's for a quick and simple check-in and take-off ... not an appalling orgy of consumerism, argues Terence Conran

Socking it to them: the BAA has turned Gatwick and Heathrow into huge out-of-town shopping centres Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Airports, I believe, should be civilised gateways from one country (or city) to another. More than that, they should be in some way representative of the character of that country. Napoleon belittled us as a nation of shopkeepers, but is that really the impression we wish to perpetuate? The British Airports Authority, it seems, would think so. And nobody – certainly not the Government, and certainly not the planners – is responding to the huge and vulgar change in emphasis that has overtaken Heathrow and Gatwick Airports, whereby they are now principally concerned in the business of retail.

Around the world, but especially in the UK, retailing has overwhelmed the main purpose of air terminals: to ensure that passengers enjoy a swift, safe, calm and easy transition through check-in procedures and passport control to board an aeroplane. While John Gummer has announced his intention that the Department of the Environment should strengthen its commitment to town centres and curb out-of-town superstores, my understanding is that once planning permission for an airport terminal is granted, the BAA is free to use and develop that site as it chooses. If you or I wanted to convert an empty school into a shopping centre, the first step would be to seek permission for the proposed change of use; the BAA, by contrast, has converted Heathrow and Gatwick Airports into huge out-of-town shopping centres, and they are set to become bigger still.

The figures, apparently, speak for themselves: airport shopping is big, booming business. According to the BAA, gross retail income for 1995/96 rose by 10.5 per cent on the previous year to £556m, accounting for 44 per cent of total BAA revenue, the largest single source. And although tax/duty free sales were dominated by liquor, tobacco and perfume, it is clothing, electrical equipment and jewellery that are the fastest growth areas in terms of sales.

With this in mind, the BAA is embarked on an ambitious expansion plan, concentrated mainly on Heathrow and Gatwick airports. In part this is in response to the rising number of airline passengers, but there can be no doubt about how the BAA views its captive population. The recently completed expansion of the international departure lounge at Heathrow Terminal One increased its size from 4,000 square metres to 16,000 square metres (400 per cent), yet seating allocation only rose from 800 to 2,000 seats (150 per cent). By contrast, the number of shops rose from eight to 31 (387 per cent), and of food outlets from one to five (500 per cent).

I was flying from Terminal One only last month. All is glossy and new, clean and tidy in the shopping areas; in the walkways and the departure lounge, however, it's an altogether different story. They are fitted with stained, worn-out carpet held together with odd lengths of black tape, patched plastic tiles, odd wires hanging all over the place, broken chairs with their stuffing hanging out, cigarette burns on table tops, rubbish on the floors. The check-in desks are falling to pieces.

> Heathrow's check-in desks are falling to pieces. Even a Third World country would feel disgraced by the squalor and shabbiness

Even a Third-World country would feel disgraced by the squalor and shabbiness. It's transparently clear where BAA's priorities lie. No doubt it would blame the passengers' loutish behaviour; perhaps it should look to its own loutish advertising for the source of this behaviour.

The BAA argues that it needs to develop airport shopping to keep its running costs as low as possible and to fund the expansion of airport capacity. The latter will naturally incorporate an even greater number of shops than we already have. And, of course, the BAA is scared of the impact that the loss of duty-free benefits to passengers travelling within the EU will have, if the legislation concerning this comes into force, as anticipated, on 1 July 1999. Yet I wonder what effect the airport shopping boom is having on the costs of the carriers, as passengers stagger on to their aircraft laden with last-minute duty-free shopping?

The strategy being pursued by the BAA is the supreme example of the folly of knee-jerk privatisation, whereby a previously nationalised company feels obliged, on behalf of its shareholders, to pursue a course it was never intended to follow. Answerable mainly to its board and shareholders, the BAA enjoys a monopoly on tax- and duty-free retail space, which it shares with a select group of retailers. Tax- and duty-free purchases deny the Government millions of pounds of revenue. How is it that the same Government can be so unquestioning of the unique advantages it has created for a privatised company and a select group of high-street retailers?

The Heathrow Terminal Five inquiry brings to light some interesting attitudes towards shopping on the part of the BAA. Already, Gatwick Airport, in my opinion, is being advertised as a shopping destination regardless of whether people are then boarding a plane. There is a blurring of the distinction between what is available landside (to everybody) and airside (to passengers only). The retail balance heavily favours airside shopping at the moment, but the possible abolition of intra-EU duty-free benefits will significantly dent the BAA's income and may lead to a shift in emphasis.

Asked last year by one of the planning inspectors conducting the Terminal Five inquiry how the BAA would react if conditions were imposed to limit landside shopping, Michael Maine, of the BAA, said objections would be raised, even though such conditions would be "totally unnecessary". As Peter Brown, spokesman for Local Authorities Against Terminal Five, explains, "Under current arrangements, the application is essentially for a big box; what is put in that box is entirely at the discretion of the BAA."

An air terminal should be an air terminal – a pleasant, efficient, relaxed place for boarding passengers on to planes with a minimum of fuss. I cringe at the thought that the last impression many people take home with them when leaving the UK is of a cluttered, frenzied, shopping mall, a bargain-basement bazaar from which there is no escape. And I cringe yet again when I see BAA's crass advertising on television, using a lager-lout mentality to encourage travellers to make VAT- and duty-free purchases.

I am not against airport shopping per se: it is the scale of the BAA's operation that appalls me. The new airport at Hamburg, for example, has shops, but the departure lounge is not overwhelmed by them. The Eurostar Terminal at Waterloo (a close equivalent) similarly strikes a balance between providing space for shops where last-minute essentials might be bought, and plenty of space for waiting passengers to sit in peace and comfort. Of course, the check-in line for Eurostar is just 30 minutes prior to departure, and it has no duty- or VAT-free shopping.

British airports, by contrast, are partly so overcrowded because passengers are encouraged to check in so early. (And then they are stuck in the departure lounge with nothing to do but shop.)

In November last year, *Retail Week* listed Sir John Egan, chief executive of the BAA, as one of the 50 most important people in British retailing. What happened to the business of running Britain's airports? Sure, people might want to buy a newspaper or pick up a paperback, or they might suddenly realise they forgot to pack a toothbrush. But airport shopping has gone way beyond the means of providing such a service. In the words of one of the BAA's recent press releases: "Everything you needed *and quite a few things you didn't even know you needed* are now available".

Such rampant consumerism offends me, even as a retailer myself. I am also concerned about the impression it gives to visitors to our country. For I am a designer, one who passionately believes in the dictum of fitness of purpose. I am also a taxpayer, and as such I object to the enrichment of BAA's shareholders at the expense of tax lost on airside purchases – tax losses for which the rest of us have to pay. BAA has quite lost sight of its original purpose, turning our airports into major retail outlets, with the opportunity to catch your plane if you can find it. These are fundamental changes, yet they have never been presented to government or the planners.

DAVID AARONOVITCH

Postal strikes

This week, the magnificently named Tory MP Dame Angela Rumbold wrote a stiff note to one of her constituents, the equally well monikered Hilary Pentecost. In it, Dame Angela committed the unforgiveable sin of telling pensioner Pentecost, a constant whinger, where to get off. This week, I have collected a series of letters in a similarly frank but suicidal vein, which really ought to get sent.

From the Vice Chancellor's Office, New University of Ullapool.

Dear Mr Burns/Barns/Barnes/Barne/Burne/Birne,

Thank you for your application to read English Literature here in Ullapool. I am sorry for any delay in replying, but it took five members of our entries office more than a month to decipher your handwriting and spelling. This included calling in a number of language specialists, following up one (later discredited) theory that your letter had been written in Serbo-Croat by a traumatised refugee from ethnic cleansing.

When we finally understood that your illiterate scrawl was supposed to constitute a request to sit at the feet of Professor McUrqhuhart and imbibe the poetry and prose of these isles, our hearts sank. But, dear Mr B, beggars cannot be choosers (except in your case, apparently), so we look forward to receiving you in Ullapool in late September. Student accommodation is limited, so you would be well advised to purchase a tent. Catalogues, including flysheets in the university colours (maroon, puce and white), are available upon request.

Yours sincerely, Sir Hamish Hamilton

From Alastair Campbell, Leader of the Opposition's office.

Dear Señor Delgado,

I am writing to you, in your capacity as Mayor of Benidorm to warn you of the forthcoming visit of our transport spokesperson, Glenda Jackson, to your resort next week. It is just a publicity stunt in advance of our general election, and not a piece of sabotage cooked up with your rivals in Torremolinos aimed at denting Benidorm's tourist trade. She'll stay a couple of hours, get photographed with a pair of big-bellied Brummies and then push off.

From the Chairman of the Conservative Party

Dear Charlie and Maurice,

I have a confession. You remember that slightly drunken game we played in the upstairs room at the Eel and Compass last month – who can design the most ridiculous, self-defeating poster ever? And Lettie Fox-Cretin came up with that hilarious idea involving Tony Blair? Well, to cut a long story short, I put it in my briefcase, where somehow it got mixed up with the real designs. So I'm afraid it's coming soon to a billboard near you.

Yours, a contrite Brian Mawhinney

> 'A yappy dog the size of a rat on steroids was turned into a bundle of fluff'

From the Secretary of the Kennel Club

Dear dog owner,

Following the unfortunate incident involving Tracey Dykes' chihuahua Chizzy and the valium – in which a nervous, yappy dog the size and attractiveness of a rat on steroids was turned into a docile bundle of inert fluff – the committee has decided that all chihuahuas will be given valium before club events. And their owners.

Yours faithfully, Dame Bunty Tooth

From the Shadow Minister for Overseas Aid.

Dear Tony,

I think I owe it to you to be honest. Forget all that stuff about "dark forces" and presentation. It's all bollocks. It's you I can't stand. Just one of those things, I suppose.

FOAD, Clare

From TESDA Superstores

Dear Customer

This product, "pure minced English lamb", is guaranteed to contain no more than 20 per cent beef. An occasional bit of prawn may also make an unscheduled appearance. But it's better than toenails, or old sticking plasters, isn't it?

Come again.

H Grout, quality control.

'Independence Day': battle begins here

It's a war movie, a love story, spangled with cliché. What more could you want, asks Emma Daly

The year's worst schlockbuster. Spend your cash on popcorn instead, says Ruth Picardie

Thrill to the triumph of good over evil, weep at the loss of mother and father, laugh at the devil-may-care one-liners of the wise-cracking heroes, marvel at the ring of fire consuming the Empire State Building – *Independence Day* has it all, the ultimate B-movie.

Of course it's rubbish, but what fun it is even if you're not an American. Obviously, now that the US of A rules the world it needs a new challenge: to rule the universe, and Hollywood has come up trumps. It's a war movie, a love story, a thriller, a horror/sci-fi/comedy and a tale of redemption, bathed in special effects and a nod to the rest of the world.

Women, admittedly, get rather short shrift, keeping the home fires burning while the men go off and do their thing, but at least there are lots of men to watch. The President, handsome, decent, Wasp; the boffin, sexy, smart and Jewish; the pilot, sexy, brave and black.

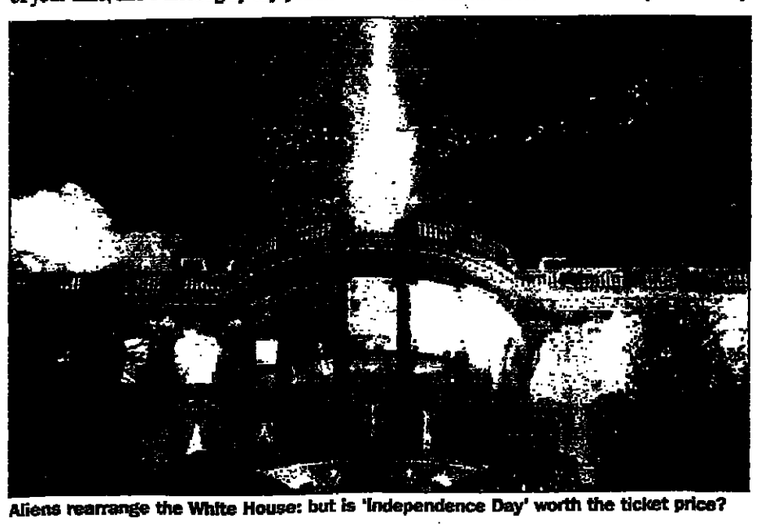
The aliens are distant cousins to ET and descendants of the alien destroyed by Sigourney Weaver. And, in a decent plot-twist, they are the beings that might justify the existence of the *National Enquirer* and the news section of *Sunday Sport*.

The makers of *Independence Day* have, in a stunning cinematic achievement, managed to assemble pretty much every film cliché there is in a single package. Apart from the obvious sci-fi precursors – *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters* – the movie pays tribute to *Top Gun*, to all war movies and all hacker movies, the *War of the Worlds*, *Dave*, *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, *Lassie*, *North by North-West* and even to the James Bond oeuvre (the opening scene with a submarine commander reporting something fishy on his telephone hot-line).

Performances are charming and cheesy, the minor characters bring pathos (the Grim Reaper looms above them), product placement is unusual (Sky News in the Oval Office? CNN should sue). And it's not often that you see the symbols of American power (the White House, the Stealth bomber) blown away. The stereotypes are splendid – plucky Brits, chain-smoking Russians, inscrutable Orientals and spear-carrying Africans. Aussies in the audience cheered the shots of Sydney Harbour, though apparently in the US the blitzing of Washington drew rapturous applause.

Best of all there are no dreary, millionaire stars. Instead the makers have employed actors – Jeff Goldblum, Judd Hirsch (who made the leap from *Taxi* to the big screen), Bill Pullman (who you would probably recognise, though I can't remember any of his other movies) and some plucky babes who will, I hope, be launched to greater glory next time around.

Independence Day is the ultimate in easy viewing. It does not inform or educate or offend. It is well worth a fiver and two hours of your time, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.



Aliens rearrange the White House: but is 'Independence Day' worth the ticket price?

Sure, it deals in the grossest stereotypes: Harvey Fierstein, the mother-obsessed, neurotic gay; Judd Hirsch, the kvetching, yarmulka-twirling Jew. Sure, the film is an orgasm of American patriotism. Sure, nobody seems bothered by the slaughter of millions. But so what? Hollywood schlockbusters deal in types, not characters, and the land of the free is always the goodie in this popcorn world.

That's the way I like it, and this summer has been great. *The Rock*? Loved every bombastic, violent, clichéd, testosterone-crazed minute. *Mission Impossible*? Couldn't get enough pseudo-scientific hokum and machismo-fuelled chase scenes on the tops of trains. *Twister*? Deliriously mindless action. At the end of a desk-rage-filled day at work, or a snotty weekend with the kids, I want to be pulverised by explosions; I don't want to be made to think.

Naturally, I couldn't wait for *Independence Day*, the biggest grossing blob-out of all time, featuring mass destruction! Exploding American icons! Jeff Goldblum in military uniform! But half way through I started to wish I'd spent the evening slobbing in front of *Three Colours: Red*, for *Independence Day* is the mother of all bores, failing every criteria of escapist action.

First, the plot has more holes in it than the moon, and plot is the engine that drives the schlock machine.

Why, exactly, are the aliens attacking Earth? Their only aim seems to practise their smart bombing technique, which is highly refined already. What happens to Harvey Fierstein, introduced early on as one of the types (black, Jewish, gay) who then bury their differences to save the world?

What kind of President allows an inarticulate computer boffin, plus intensely irritating dad, on board Air Force One? And why bother introducing the First Lady, when the President grieves for all of five seconds when she sighs and dies?

Second – and this is a much greater sin – the baddies aren't proper bad guys; they're not interesting enough to make you scared (this is known as the Hannibal Lecter effect).

In *The Rock*, the anti-hero was a twitching Nam vet teetering between madness and valour. *Mission: Impossible* was a dazzling double-bluff of spot-the-enemy. *Twister* had problems because the bad guy was a tornado, and tornadoes aren't wicked or devious; they just blow a lot.

So it was with the *Independence Day* aliens, who are a tiny bit scary because they are ripped off from the original, nightmare, *Alien*. Otherwise, all they seem to want to do is play Cowboys and Indians with planet Earth, which is probably why the film is a certificate 12.

So don't believe the hype, grown-up Earthlings. *Independence Day* is a colossal bore. Spend your ticket money on popcorn instead.

THE INDEPENDENT

WIN A PARTY WEEKEND IN BARCELONA

Holsten Pils play Barcelona remix

It's the trip of a lifetime with Holsten Pils this Bank Holiday in Barcelona.

Holsten Pils is set to hijack Barcelona, the party capital of Europe, and will play host to 'The Holsten Remix'. This three day trip (August 23-25) of Bacchanalian madness will feature a super cool line up of international bands, DJ's, clubs and bars.

The Holsten Remix will reach fever pitch on Saturday night, but the headline act is a closely guarded secret. Holsten will then hit guests with a sonic boom from support act Leftfield who's debut album 'Leftism' went Gold and was nominated for the Mercury Prize.

With a line-up also including some of the world's most celebrated DJ's, the 'Holsten Remix' promises to deliver an unparalleled party experience. A pre-gig party at one of Barcelona's top night clubs Otto Zutz, on the Friday night will kick start the weekend of a lifetime.

We have managed to get our hands on 2 PAIRS of tickets that money cannot buy. 4 lucky readers will get the opportunity to join 1,000 of Britain's finest party people in this weekend of a lifetime, courtesy of Holsten Pils. The lucky winners will fly from London to Barcelona, stay two nights at a fantastic hotel and join the party on Friday and Saturday night. This includes; Exclusive tickets to the Holsten Remix event, exclusive tickets to the pre-gig party at Otto Zutz, return flights from London to Barcelona, hotel accommodation (twin rooms) with breakfast included, a meal with free drink will be provided on Friday and Saturday and limited coach transport in Barcelona.

To win a pair of tickets to the event simply name the name of Leftfield's current album and call;

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Leave your answer and name and address with a daytime telephone number.

Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date of midnight August 19, 1996. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute all other times. Your call should not last more than two minutes. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. There is no cash alternative. Entrants must be over 18, have a valid UK passport and be available August 23-25, 1996.

obituaries

Julian Stryjkowski

Julian Stryjkowski was one of the more interesting as well as one of the more controversial of Polish 20th-century novelists. He is unfortunately not yet translated into English (with the one exception of *The Inn*, 1966), and therefore not so well-known to the English-speaking world as other Polish writers such as Witold Gombrowicz, Bruno Schulz, Zbigniew Herbert, Czeslaw Milosz, and Tadeusz Konwicki. He was never an open critic of the Communist regime, and thus did not attract the Western approbation frequently afforded to dissident and émigré writers regardless of their literary ability.

His controversial past ensured that Stryjkowski remained a lonely figure though recent publicity surrounding his novel *Silence* (1993), in which he openly declared his homosexuality for the first time at the age of 88, provoked discussion of his other themes – his Jewish heritage and his one-time deep commitment to Communism – and helped to establish him as an important literary figure. Many of his novels, published originally in the Fifties and early Sixties, have been recently republished.

Stryjkowski was born Stark and took his later name from the small provincial town of Stryj in Eastern Galicia, then in the Austrian-ruled section of partitioned Poland, where he grew up in a shtetl (an exclusively Jewish community), as the son of a Jewish schoolteacher. Although Stryjkowski claimed never to have been a believer, he was nevertheless deeply influenced by the enclosed, traditional, intensely religious atmosphere of the shtetl. During his teenage years he immersed himself in the study of Hebrew and became a committed follower of Zionism, a creed which he was soon to abandon but later re-embraced following his disillusionment with Communism during the 1950s.

In 1932 he completed a degree in Polish literature at the University of Lwow (now Lviv) and became a grammar-school teacher in the town of Plock. He joined the Communist Party of the Western Ukraine and was imprisoned for his party activities during 1935-36 by the inter-war Polish government. When war broke out in 1939 he was living in Warsaw but returned to Lviv, where he was employed by the Polish Communist daily the *Red Standard*. When the Germans reached Lviv he moved to Moscow, remaining there until 1946, and then returned to Poland, by then a Communist satellite state.

Stryjkowski: 'a writer, not a hero'

From 1946 to 1952 he worked for the Polish Press Agency, and from 1954 was for many years a member of the editorial board of the leading literary monthly *Tworczosc*. His disillusionment with Communism was gradual. A severe blow to his loyalty had been the execution of Rudolf Slansky, former General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, in November 1952, for allegedly being a Zionist, but it was not until the expulsion of the philosopher Leszek Kolakowski from the Polish party in 1966 that he finally gave up his own membership.

Stryjkowski's involvement with Communism, especially during the war years, led to his being badgered in recent interviews into justifying his former behaviour and loyalties; he tended to fudge the issue by claiming that he always regarded himself as "a writer, not a hero" and that his former ideological blindness was no more reprehensible than that of many other people. In an interview with the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* in 1994 he also strongly suggested that his lifelong suppression of his homosexuality fundamentally impaired his ability to be free and open regarding any moral issue that touched him personally.

It is therefore noteworthy that the area which occupied Stryjkowski most in his novels was that of personal moral responsibility and the threats made to an individual's conscience by the pressures of the real world and especially by the dilemmas forced upon individual human beings by historical and cultural change. His characters' need for a strong moral and cultural orientation is deeply interlinked with his Jewish background, the only experience in his life with which he consistently identified. His best works portray Jewish themes. His first novel *Voices in the Darkness* (written in 1943-46 in Moscow and published in 1956) depicts the tragic frustration experienced by an orthodox believer faced with modern cultural and social changes which he cannot accept but to which his close family and fellow villagers succumb. Later novels portraying Jewish themes include *The Inn*, *Azril's Dream* (1975), *The Stranger from Narbanne* (1988) and *Echo* (1978). Meanwhile other novels, *Great Terror* (1979) and its sequel, *The Same, but Otherwise* (1990), are largely autobiographical; in the first of these he portrays his experiences as a Communist in wartime Lviv.

As portraits of Jewish life in Poland, Stryjkowski's works stand comparison with those of both Bruno Schulz and of Isaac Bashevis Singer, but what makes him unique is the combination of a first-hand knowledge of shtetl life with a personal involvement with Communism.

Ursula Phillips

Julian Stark (Julian Stryjkowski), writer: born Stryj, Poland 27 April 1905; died Warsaw 8 August 1996.

Sir Frank Whittle

It is sad that John Golley, who knew him so well, should have repeated so many of the old myths about Frank Whittle [obituary, 10 August], **writes Anthony Furse.**

There is no doubt that most of the delays in making British gas-turbines to Whittle's designs were due to his long refusal to allow any of the established aero-engine manufacturers to work on his designs.

As a serving officer, the RAF not only kept him on full pay whilst he took an Engineering degree at Cambridge, and did a further year as a postgraduate, but continued to do so when he decided to allow his invention to be developed by a private company, stipulating only that the Air Ministry must have Free Crown Usage of engines developed to his patents.

Despite the adverse report on Whittle's invention from Dr Griffith of the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1937, Air Marshal Sir Wilfrid Freeman, Air Member for Research and Development, continued to back Whittle, on the advice of Professor Tizard, providing first £1,900 towards a total cost of £9,000, and then a further £6,000, before the outbreak of war. Early in 1940, Freeman listed the gas turbine as one of the few "potential war-winners" and backed the decision to give contracts to Rover to put Whittle's engines into production, because Whittle refused to work with the aero-engine firms.

Churchill's decision to put Beaverbrook in charge of Aircraft Production led to the departure of Freeman, Tedder and Tizard, Whittle's three main supporters, by December 1940, and although full information about his invention was given to the GEC company in the United States, and to de Havilland, Metrovick and Armstrong Siddeley in Britain, as early as 1941, and although Rolls-Royce gave Whittle endless help, production of Whittle engines was restricted to the Rover company until Freeman returned to the Ministry of Aircraft Production with full executive powers in October 1942.

Co-operation between Rover and Whittle had deteriorated by then and Whittle had become a difficult colleague under the stress of his work, and the side-effects of his dependence on benzedrine, to which he had been addicted since 1940, and Freeman realised that Rover lacked the resources to make successful engines. After failing to persuade Whittle to throw in his lot with Rolls-Royce, he judged that to force the issue might make things worse, and simply transferred the Rover gas-turbine factories to R-R instead.

Hives, and Sidgreaves, his Chairman, were far too committed and patriotic to have worried about the effect on their piston engine business of a switch to turbines, and but for Whittle's prejudiced phobia against the aero-engine establishment, he could have been given the full support of Rolls-Royce as early as 1940. A great man, but at times his own worst enemy.

Cullen as 'Wee Burney' in *Rab C. Nesbitt* — Photograph: David Cruickshanks

Eric Cullen

As "Wee Burney", the younger son of the foul-mouthed Scottish philosopher in the BBC2 comedy series *Rab C. Nesbitt*, the 4ft 4in actor Eric Cullen achieved national fame.

The star, Gregor Fisher, had taken the character of Rab from the cult series *Naked Video* to his own programme, complete with a family consisting of Elaine C. Smith as his wife Mary and Cullen and Andrew Fairlie as his revolting children Burney and Gash. While their father, forever wearing a string vest, would utter sexist diatribe in a Scottish accent as thick as broth, they would deal with problems such as rats in the kitchen by clubbing them to death with a frying pan.

Cullen made his television début at the age of 13 as Wee Jaikie, one of the "Gorbals Diehards" in the BBC Scotland serial *Hungingtower*, adapted from John Buchan's novel, attended drama college with his older sister and worked consistently as a child actor. His television appearances included roles in *A Sense of Freedom* (1981), the drama based on the murderer Jimmy Boyle's autobiography, *Playfair*, *The Camerons*, *Govan Ghost Story* and *Deathwatch*. He left school with no qualifications but went to college, then took a degree in social sciences at Glasgow Polytechnic with a view to a career in teaching.

Returning to acting, he appeared in the comedy sketch series *A Kick Up the Eighties* (1984) and alongside Robbie Coltrane and Tracey Ullman in *Laugh, I Nearly Paid My Licence Fee*, as well as with Rikki Fulton in *Scotch and Wry*. But he was best known for the role of Burney, which he first played in a 1988 Christmas Special, *Rab C. Nesbitt's Seasonal Greet*, the first spin-off from *Naked Video*. He acted in the first three full-length series of *Rab C. Nesbitt* (1990-93) and also appeared in a stage version which toured Britain in 1993.

Having made his name in the comedy, he became co-presenter – as "Norton Yernelly" – of a Scottish Television Sunday morning children's series, *Wemyss Bay 902101* (1993), alongside Grant Stott, who has since joined Children's BBC.

Last year, Cullen was convicted of child pornography offences, when his own history of being sexually abused since the age of 13 was revealed, but his nine-month prison sentence was reduced to three years' probation on appeal. He had not worked since, but the writer of *Rab C. Nesbitt*, Ian Pattison, and the producer, Colin Gilbert, were planning at the time of Cullen's death to invite him to appear in one episode of the next series of the hit show.

Cullen's theatre work included appearances in *Volpone*, at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, *Pride of the Clyde*, at the King's Theatres in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and a tour of *George's Marvellous Medicine* with Borderline Theatre Company.

He also appeared regularly in pantomimes including *Mother Goose*, *The Gaiety Whirl*, and *Tom Thumb*, all at the Gaiety Theatre, in Ayr, and also *Babes in the Wood* at the King's Theatre, Glasgow. He was a patron of the Volunteer Centre in Scotland and of the David Cullen Childhood Leukaemia Fund.

Anthony Hayward

Eric Cullen, actor: born 1965; died 16 August 1996.

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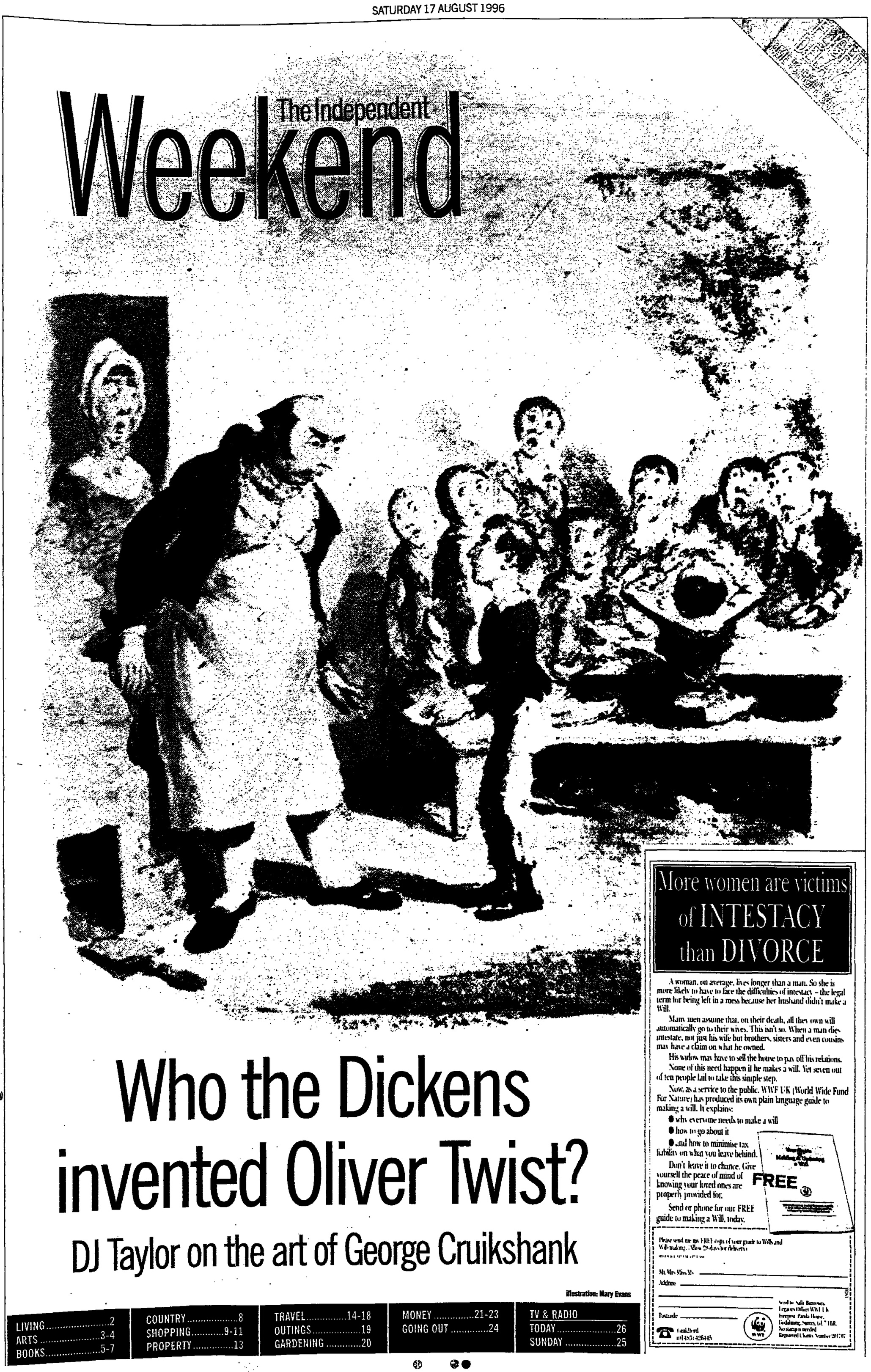

Who the Dickens invented Oliver Twist?

DJ Taylor on the art of George Cruikshank

Illustration: Mary Evans

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More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy – the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations.

None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a will
- how to go about it
- and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.

Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.

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Corsets and codpieces hold court

Serving wenches, Yeomen of the Guard and 17th-century grandes dames wander the royal apartments of Hampton Court with groups of captivated guests in tow. But this is no kitschy Historyland® theme tour. The art of 'historical reinterpretation' is serious business. Photograph by Glynn Griffiths

SERENA MACKESY

In another life

If there is one thing guaranteed to make your palms itch with the desire to see something, it's a sign saying "No Entry". Hampton Court, still inhabited here and there by old ladies who have endeared themselves to the crown, is full of them: black gloss-painted barriers scattered liberally under arches.

Jane Malcolm-Davies, in a black wool minidress, marches past one and through a low doorway. Beyond is a magnolia-painted corridor. "This is actually part of Wolsey's apartments," she says. "It used to be a delightful Department of the Environment green." Behind the walls, early visitors are oohing at the Cardinal's exquisite taste in murals. Here, at the cutting edge of heritage, is something more practical: a lift that can hold five people, as long as they've brushed their teeth. It takes us to the second floor. There are buttons for the first and third, but it can't stop at either. The exit from the first is actually bricked up.

Next to a grace-and-favour apartment, whose ornately carved entrance belonged to that unfortunate divorcée, Catharine of Aragon, we enter a series of cluttered rooms. It's like being backstage at a very well-endowed school play: bulging racks of puffed silk dresses, swords, shoes, pikes, codpieces, corsets and hose. A mantelshelf serves as a stand for a set of polystyrene heads. Each bears a frizzy *perruque*. Elizabeth Taylor would be licking her lips.

Half a dozen people bustle about in various states of undress. Tristan Langlois, who kicks off the first tour of the William and Mary apartments, is already frock-coated, and fiddles with his wig. Lucy Capito, who guides people through Henry VIII's state rooms a quarter of an hour later, has all but her lacing to complete. Julie Hudson and Alison Sim wear linen shifts. Roy Porter is in frilly shirtsleeves.

There's a certain air of tension today. Julie, just back from holiday, is doing her first day as a Tudor, after three-and-a-half years in the following century. She's been preparing for a couple of months. "I'm very nervous," she says. "I did all the research before I went, and when I came back I couldn't remember anything about William and Mary, which I've been doing for more than three years. And Henry VIII is a total blank now." Alison calmly expects her to be fine. "It's always like this when you step out. But you bounce off the room a lot; there's always something that will spark your imagination, or someone will ask a question that sets you off."

Roy, meanwhile, is doing his first day ever in costume. He's going to be a Yeoman of the Guard – "a Stuart Yeoman of the Guard" – and shadow Tristan. He came down from Oxford a couple of years ago ("I guess the subfusc prepared me for dressing up for a living") and worked in a warehouse before he joined JMD Heritage Interpretation. "It wasn't very enjoyable. No colour, no frills." He's got the frills now, in abundance: Jane is picking his hose. "Do you want the green or the pink?" Everyone looks. "Pink," they cry. "Definitely," says Jane. "Shows how much of a man you are."

Hampton Court has been dressing a proportion of its guides in costume since 1992. The idea was the brainchild of the Historic Royal Palaces Interpretation Manager, Anne Fletcher. "We wanted to think of a way of giving information that was fun, and to make it as interactive as possible. Theory about how people learn and retain information suggests that the more you involve people, the more they remember. If you put a sign in a room saying, "This was where the farandole was danced", they look at it and it means nothing. If you show it taking place, it's more memorable. If you let them learn the steps, it's even more so." After a successful experiment with hobby historians in the Tudor kitchens, Jane, who had co-founded the heritage interpretation company Past Pleasures in 1989, was drafted in to set up a professional team, and the rest, literally, is history.

The Malcolm-Davies guides have taken the costume thing to a new level. One could assume, glimpsing them unawares across the Clock Court, that this was some ghastly themeparking, and indeed the guides themselves refer jokingly to their patches as "Tudorland" and "William and Maryland". Actually, they're more serious than that: you need a degree at least to be part of JMD's 18-strong staff, and everyone is expected to contribute to the knowledge pool each year. Alison's book, *The Tudor Housewife*, is published by Sutton in September, and academic vacations see James Loxley, a lecturer at the University of Leeds, don tricorn and codpiece and swank round the royal apartments. There is very little you can ask these people that they won't be able to come up with a plausible answer to.

And the punters love them. In Tudorland, Lucy leads a group of a good hundred round the sights. They brush occasionally against another group led by a more familiar type of guide – there will always be people who will doubt the credibility of someone dressed as a serving wench. Lucy's gang is captivated by the combination of theatricality, humour and grinding knowledge, and participate eagerly.

Oddly, people seem more willing to ask questions of someone in a wimple than a badge. Maybe one feels less self-conscious about handwaving when the person one is approaching looks so much more conspicuous.

There is also a tactile quality about these guides that you could never get from a hairdo wearing a pussycat bow. Their clothes, made in obsessively accurate detail under the auspices of the costume manager Caroline Johnson and costing around £1,000 per outfit (and that's before you add the wigs and shoes), are subjected to constant assault. "A lot of people," Julie sighs as she pulls on a starched linen cap, "want to feel your corset. Particularly men." Brenda, responsible for costume maintenance, has her work cut out. "The wear and tear is enormous. A lot of the garments can come apart very easily in an afternoon. The braid on the Yeoman of the Guard costume can come in hanging off. I'll be putting them back together during the rest periods."

Apart from the manhandling, they enjoy their costumes. "My bodice," says Jane, who waltzes through the apartments dressed as a 17th-century grande dame, complete with heart-shaped beauty spots, "is better than a Wonderbra. It's worth all the inconvenience. It gives me a cleavage, which I would never have in normal life." And then there's the underwear question. "Personally I find it more comfortable not to wear any knickers. You've got all these layers of petticoats and it gets very hot. Knickers were really only invented in the late 19th / early 20th century. Actually, I find that quite an interesting subject to discuss with visitors, and they do ask, you know. And about codpieces. Laundry. Personal hygiene. All these things are of great fascination to the general public. You can go from underwear to politics in one breath. It's funny the leaps you can make."

Lunchtime, back in the dressing room, and everyone dons butchers' aprons as protection. Roy has acquitted himself well, even if his *perruque* and flat topper did make him look like the guitarist in Guns N' Roses. James fishes a wristwatch from the flap pocket of his frock coat. Tristan is a bit battered from the personal attentions of a thousand punters. "They'll come up and start tugging wigs and grabbing clothing without asking you. They wouldn't do that with an ordinary guide. The first time it happened, I was shocked. It's this velvet suit that does it. I get far fewer people wanting to touch me in my green one."

"I know," Lucy replies. "A lot of them think we're only there for photographs and that we're no better than models. They put their arms round you and try to kiss you – particularly foreign men. They think because you're dressed as a wench that you are one."

This sounds like purgatory. They disagree. "It's a brilliant job," says Julie. "It's one of the few ones where you're encouraged to carry on learning. You're always researching, you're always reading, you're always finding out new things. That doesn't happen in most jobs." Lucy still gets a buzz from it. "I love it. It's great seeing people's fascination. They've seen the clothes in pictures, but they can't imagine how it worked in reality. It's like seeing a picture come to life."

Things can get a tad tricksy, though. They're surprised by how few adversarial point-scorers they come across, but they all get put on the spot from time to time. "This lady once asked me," Lucy recalls, "if we were in the room where Jane Eyre was executed." Old Henry, it seems, was more of a polygamist than we thought.

It's not cool to like Bruce. People feel embarrassed about seeing a macho man show emotion

EMMA FORREST

Anything bad that happens to me is, I'm certain, a result of not touching Bruce Springsteen's hand. It was months ago, but I still feel angry because practically everyone else in the whole of the Brixton Academy got to press flesh with The Boss. It reminded me of all the times I didn't get a going-home bag at a party because the taller kids got in the way and took them all.

It's not been the best week. I can't sleep and everyone hates me and I'm still not Elizabeth Taylor in 1956. The last bit is the worst. Because sometimes, I almost convince myself that I am. Or I forget that I'm not. And then I catch sight of my reflection in the halogen-speared ladies' room of the pub. And I look like a crazy lady. "Wanna change my clothes, my hair, my face!" So now I want to be Bruce Springsteen. It takes less lipstick. It's easier to live "Born to Run" than "Suddenly, Last Summer".

Richard agrees. He's a musician I became mates with because ... he loves Bruce too. This is actually a bigger deal than it sounds because, in modern pop, you're allowed to have about three reference points: The Jam, The Beatles and Madness. That's to say, we're all for working class icons, so long as they're either a) lad rock; b) experimental and sterile; c) jokey. It is not cool to like Bruce. People feel deeply embarrassed about seeing a macho man show that much emotion. It's like watching your father cry. Pop insiders don't approve of anyone who gives that much, who doesn't stand stock still at the microphone, with his hands behind his back, who doesn't in lieu of talent grasp aimlessly at irony.

Richard is older than me, with a family and a real life. But we meet up for a drink now and then and have our little Bruce time before he heads back to the studio and tries to persuade his band to do a cover of "Candy's Room". Today he is on a mission. He must have a jacket like Springsteen's on the cover of *Darkness on the Edge of Town*. By the end of the day, I swear he has tried on every black leather jacket in London, and still he finds nothing "tough" enough. I get cranky and need to eat, but don't want to stray off the Bruce theme, so we go to the Hard Rock Café, where we sit under the platinum disc of "Born in the USA". The waitresses at the Hard Rock are like the air stewardesses on TWA. Middle-aged and stressed, with sore feet and high hair.

As our waitress slams down my Coke, I tell Richard about the time I interviewed Jon Bon Jovi and found myself asking, as my third question, "Hey, you know Bruce Springsteen, don't you? He'd like me, wouldn't he?" Jon Bon looked at me strangely. "No, I don't think he'd like you at all. I think you'd scare him."

Richard encourages me, and by the time I get home, I am a woman obsessed. Bruce likes red heads? Guess who leans over the tub and dyes their hair? Grace yells that if she has to hear 30 seconds more of "Thunder Road", she will be physically sick. It is at this point that not only must I meet him, but I must also be him. Dad is still hard at work when I pop into the office with the sleeve of *Darkness on the Edge of Town* to ask if he thinks I look like Bruce. "Yes, a lot. Look: you've both got two eyes and a nose and a mouth. What's wrong with your hair?"

I meet the girls for a few drinks, but that night worse than ever, I really can't sleep. Road workers are doing a little midnight mending outside my window. I watch them for a while. I have a bath, I read a book, I resolve to sit in bed and stare at the ceiling. Then the door bell rings. The screech of the bell ringing always scares me, even in the middle of the day. I creep down the stairs, wrapping my dressing-gown tight around me. Through the intercom I hear his growl. I lean out of the window and see Bruce on his Harley. The road workers are staring but he just calls up to me: "Fix yourself up pretty, come down here and get on that bike, girl. I saw you in the crowd at Brixton and I had to come for you. But you knew I would, didn't you baby? We're going down to the river". And we go.

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هكذا من الاصل

Smut-worm, mildew and chuckle-rot: how to cultivate comedy weeds

The press have it in for me! I'm convinced of it. Folks, I have a stonking great show at the Edinburgh Fringe this year, and it's not my fault if the audience doesn't get it! The reviews have been scathing, but what do they know? This is what I get for trying to do something different, for trying to knock down a few walls.

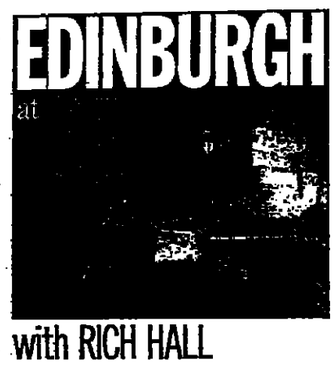
When I first came up with the idea for *Rich Hall On Ice*, people said: "Rich, it's crazy. Nobody wants to see stand-up on ice skates." But my mind was made up. I spent an entire year honing my skating techniques, practising the adagio movements, writing new material – and then I go to the Gilded Balloon and hey, *there's no rink*! As specified in my contract! Doesn't anybody read those things?

So now I'm clopping out onto the wooden stage of the Balloon every night in my ice skates and, I admit, maybe it's a little baffling to the audience. Also, the sequinned uni-tard is damned hot under those spotlights. Then there's the chorus of "Nice package!" cat-calls from the drunken yobbos at the front table. This is the kind of shit I have to put up with for being a pioneer.

Some people have been whingeing about the show's length, which is just over six hours. Folks, it's a lean, mean six hours. There's not an ounce of fat in that six hours! The show starts at midnight, it's over by sun-up. That's a lotta bang for the buck, if you ask me. Plus, my show has content. I hate these comedians who claim to be "political", then trot out a few lame one-liners about how ugly Virginia Bottomley is. First of all, I think Virginia Bottomley is gorgeous!

Secondly, I have something to say and I say it. For example: I talk about the duplicity of the Nepalese freedom fighters' ideologies compared to their post-romantic socialist agenda. Everyone knows they're just trying to take over the lucrative rattan trade! And the whole time I'm pointing this out, I'm executing a deft series of complicated pirouettes. What do I get from my audience? Fish faces! Folks, it's the Fringe Festival. How's about lettin' your hair down for a change?

Look, this is a dog-eat-dog festival. You live and die by the reviewer's hand. I'm not getting a fair share. It's not my fault, it's not even the fault of the reviews. There's about 8,000 shows



with RICH HALL

running up here and everyone's time is stretched to the limit. But I'm not sure that some of the critics coming to see me are qualified to be judging comedy. Here's just a fistful of the notices I've received (so far), and if you ask me, they're a little tunnel-sighted.

"Leave it to the Americans to serve up a bland and tasteless serving of under-done tripe! Rich Hall's comedy casserole came in a dish that could only be described as chafing. Half-baked premises and a curdled delivery left a bitter after-taste in this critic's mouth. Here's my tip – keep 15 per cent of your material and forget the rest, bub, because the service and ambience were non-existent." Harold Cistern, *Guardian* (Food Critic).

"The perfect comedy looks like it hasn't been planned at all. It seems to spring up from the rich loam of creativity that gives nurture to its roots. Rich's garden of witsteria and laff-o-dils is far from perfect. Rather it is a tangled weed patch, its comedic growth blighted by an infestation of smut-worm, mildew and chuckle-rot. Six hours on stage? A judicious pruning might be in good order. C'mon Rich! Think 'hedge!' His smug delivery, like a floral bouquet delivered post-Valentine's, is dry and wilted. Forget-me-not? I think I will! Like a giant Sumatran flower at Kew Gardens, he should only open every 30 or 40 years because he stinks!" Sally Squamata, *Gardening Monthly*.

"A splendid performance! Rich Hall is adorable and a genius!" Virginia Bottomley, *National Heritage Newsletter*.

"DEATHS: Hall, Rich. Suddenly on stage, Edinburgh, August 9-31. The friends and family of Mr Hall wish to console all those who attended Mr Hall's show and sat with him during his protracted (six-hour) and debilitating decline on stage. His valiant fight to almost be funny serves as an inspiration to us all." *The Scotsman*, Obituaries page.

"American reject Rich Hall made a disappointing return to the comedy Oval last night, challenging the audience to one of the longest Tests in history. Spinning and bouncing wildly in the corridor of uncertainty, the audience seemed uniformly relieved when it was 'over'." Helmut Thitherton, *Cricket News*.

"Pyntlss nd cryppy. Pure shytt." *Balu Cymwyd, Dyfed*.

Like I said, what do they know? The bane of an artiste is never to be understood! S'cuse me. I gotta go lace up for my show.

Emmy Award-winning comedian Rich Hall is performing at the Gilded Ballon, to 31 Aug (0131-226 5138).

Thomas Sutcliffe returns next month.

The Independent Edinburgh Festival guide – with comprehensive dayplanners to 21 days of music, theatre, comedy, film and fringe, plus our critics' choice of the shows you mustn't miss – available free at all good newsagents in the city

Stepping out with the last of the great defectors

Mikhail Baryshnikov, at 48, is still hungry like a shark for new repertoire. Nadine Meisner caught up with his White Oak Dance Project in Spain

It is an odd experience to find the most phenomenal ballet dancer you have ever seen, or probably ever will, rolling at your feet in what resembles a baby's baggy romper suit. Mikhail Baryshnikov is cramming in a few extra minutes of warm-up before a performance in the Spanish port of Santander; and he is trying, with grave courtesy, to answer my questions at the same time. He arches into a backward flop on to the large squashy blue balloon that seems to be the latest dance-apparatus fad, allowing muscles to be both buoyed up and mobile. At 48 he looks extraordinarily good, notwithstanding the past injuries – he has had three knee operations – that tend to mark any dancer's history like battle scars.

He is with the motley crew who make up the White Oak Dance Project, the modern dance company he founded six years ago in the USA with the choreographer Mark Morris, which arrives at the Coliseum for its second London visit. But now, in Santander, the stage has the air of an adventure playground, with the blue balloon, a couple of portable barres, a wooden wedge for stretching legs – and two imperturbable Spanish cleaning-ladies who travel back and forth in parallel, wielding huge brooms. For company class the White Oak dancers normally do ballet exercises; but this is the pre-performance warm-up, for which everyone pursues their own thing, reverting to the habits and preferences of their different backgrounds. Jamie Bishton, formerly with Twyla Tharp's company, is plugged into his Walkman and standing in splay-legged immobility relieved by a few occasional twitches. Patricia Lent (ex-Merce Cunningham) is lying on the floor, limbs spread apart in alarming spidery directions. Baryshnikov, the only one with ballet origins, fuses impeccably turned-out *battements en croix* with freestyle lurches and stretches.

The Baryshnikov of 20 years ago could halt in mid-air and then turn over on himself like a fish flipping through water; but like all classical princes he was not age-proof. After abandoning that punishing physicality, he could have recycled himself into the sedate mime roles of fathers and wicked fairies *en travestie*. But White Oak exists because what he has always sought is dance that will bring him new opportunities. And if modern dance is often anatomically kinder (Martha Graham continued into her seventies with leading roles), it also has a creative ferment that makes current efforts from ballet choreographers appear embalmed. As Baryshnikov says: "There is a big vacuum in ballet. Now, if you were seriously good as a ballet choreographer, you would be king of the world."

White Oak marks the culmination of tastes and knowledge Baryshnikov has gradually absorbed in the USA. He emigrated there in 1974 as the last of the big five Russian exiles, starting with Nijinsky and Pavlova, then Nureyev and Natalia Makarova, then Baryshnikov, all from the Kirov Ballet. From 1980 to 1989 he was director of American Ballet Theatre, during which he commissioned and performed work by modern dance heavyweights such as Morris and Tharp. "Although people wanted me to do the old classics, I just wanted to work with choreographers," he says, vigorously rubbing warmth into his right knee. (My God, what are those clicks I hear?) "First, it was ballet choreographers – Robbins, Ashton, Balanchine, Tudor – at that time they were very active." (And now all but one are dead.) "Then it was more modern dance choreographers – Taylor, Cunningham, Graham and later Morris. I learnt a lot from them and they gave me confidence that I can still do something on stage. But it was not a sudden switch. It was a transition over 20 years."

Baryshnikov's stage persona has always suited him to the impersonality of much modern dance. Where Nureyev stormed into history through the blaze of his personality, Baryshnikov soared gloriously over the ballet world with the sublime perfection of his dance. Nureyev was always ultimately Nureyev on stage; but Baryshnikov sank himself into the choreography. He was both the public's megastar and the dancer's dancer. His body was the incredibly fine-tuned instrument of his will and imagination, able to achieve a peerless finesse of movement. The subtle contrasts of texture and dynamic, the turns as smooth as thick cream, the clear-cut geometries: these are qualities he can still unleash today when the choreography demands.

In his crowd-pulling ballet heyday, Baryshnikov was the simple answer to anxious impresarios' prayers. Today, impresarios know they could still sell out – without even having to resort to tiresome marketing legwork – if only they were to write Baryshnikov's name in two-metre high letters on the posters. But, frustratingly, White Oak won't let them. This is not ballet, White Oak replies, this is not the star-system

package of ballet; we don't want to mislead. So, in the best modern egalitarian tradition, Baryshnikov is publicised as one of the crowd. Yet if he were injured, they would have to cancel. And if in the group pieces his name is scrupulously listed alphabetically, each programme also usually includes two solo items for him. White Oak both is and isn't a star vehicle.

It is, as one dancer Vernon Scott says, "a democracy with a president". Baryshnikov is open to suggestions, but he makes all the programming and policy decisions. *Primus inter pares*, he has surrounded himself with dancers of the highest calibre, some with their own successful careers behind them. Cannily, he has selected a satisfying range of ages, from 23 to Rob Besserer's 46, so avoiding the effect either of a Russian sheep among lambs or of a therapy group of dance geriatrics (although the average age is higher than in most companies).

I ask three of the dancers how they joined, and all answer that it was through a sudden phone call from Baryshnikov. "It's like, I'm sitting at home and finishing dinner," remembers Vernon Scott. "I thought it was a joke." How does one qualify for these phoned invitations? "Versatility," says Baryshnikov, "because in our group you always have to alternate styles. We are looking for people who are capable either by experience or by natural ability to change gears." Then he adds: "But that is probably number two requirement. Number one is to fit in the group because we have to travel together." So no homicidal tempers, please.

The dancers need to be adaptable, because White Oak is a rare animal in the culture of modern dance, where companies tend to be one-choreographer outfits. Although White Oak began by devoting itself exclusively to Mark Morris's work, its repertory now covers an enormous span of different choreographers, from modern dance classics like José Limón's *Chaconne* and Merce Cunningham's *Septet*, to commissions from young creators such as Kraig Patterson from Morris's company. The dancers' diverse sets of experiences encourage a collaborative atmosphere – what someone called trading information.

Linked to this repertorial diversity is an astonishing turnover of pieces, maximum shelf-life being three years. The 1995-6 season has included eight world and two company premieres. Baryshnikov devours pieces like a hungry shark in the search for new challenges, and his latest scheme is to encourage in-house choreography. Vernon Scott is preparing a piece for next season and Ruthlyn Salomons's first attempt will be shown in London. "It keeps the dancers interested and they understand the other side of the coin," are the reasons Baryshnikov gives. Isn't it harsh for the novices – and their audience – to expose them so quickly and uncompromisingly? "You go to a bookstore and there are hundreds of first novels. This is the same. You put those pieces next to the masterworks and it may be hard, but that's life."

White Oak's healthy finances make such prodigality possible. The company enjoys total self-sufficiency, relying on its fees and ploughing back the profits. The only sponsorship has been in kind: the philanthropist Howard Gilman provided a studio on his 8,000-acre White Oak Plantation (and thus also the company's name). The company journeys fast and light – 26 people in all – permitting not only a fair degree of cost-effectiveness, but the freedom that arises from not committing themselves too far in advance to a theatre or a specific programme. Because they see themselves as a chamber ensemble of 10 or 11 dancers and musicians, they aim for theatres with around 1,500 seats, so that at 2,300 the Coliseum is larger than their norm.

The past 12 months have been unprecedentedly hectic, with tours in Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. White Oak started as an experiment; nobody thought it would last this long. "But here we are in Spain and going on to Israel and London," says Jamie Bishton. "We had a premiere last night and we have other new works on the burner." White Oak will keep going as long as the factors that make it pleasurable continue: no labour unions to deal with, no fund-raising, no early booking commitments. Above all, it gives Baryshnikov absolute control. And who can blame him for wanting that?

White Oak Dance Project performs at the London Coliseum from Tues to Sat. Booking: 0171-632 8300

arts reviews

THEATRE
Love in a Wood
New End, Hampstead

Paul Taylor uncovers the contemporary echoes in a comic tale of outdoor sex

If a modern dramatist were to write a play called *Hampstead Heath*, you could be fairly confident that its theme would not be the innocent delights of rambling in the fresh air. The same goes for Restoration works with "St James's Park" in their titles. As is demonstrated by London Classic Theatre Company's intelligent revival of Wycherley's *Love in a Wood, or, St James's Park*, this resort was a nocturnal cruising area for both sexes. The panelled walls of Michael Cabot's production are thrown open for the erotic games of blind man's bluff – or "midnight coursing" – in the disconcertingly frank al fresco episodes that are a highlight of this brutally unsentimental comedy about sexual intrigue and appetite.

"Your reputation!" declares Anna Kirke's nicely pinched and venal matchmaker to the lecherous skinflint, Alderman Gripe (Jeff Bellamy). "Indeed, your worship, 'tis well known there are grave men as your worship, men in office too, that adjourn their cares and businesses to come and unbend themselves at night here, with a little vizard-mask." Where earlier dramatists would have made a distinction of tone between the high and low plots, Wycherley pushes all his personnel into the democratising darkness of the park.

Cabot ably manoeuvres a cast of 15 around a complicated plot of mistakings, multiple eavesdroppings, mistrust and mercenary entrapment. Amanda Osborne is very funny as Lady Flippant, the fortune-hunting widow who rails against marriage but hangs around the park at night in the hope of being chased. A contemporary audience has no trouble responding to her, or to the pharisaical Alderman, who is too mean even to pay the market rate for illicit sex before he is caught *in flagrante*. Modern parallels are drolly insinuated by pop songs and, less subtly, the bawd's cans of lager and Flippant's copy of *Hello!* magazine.

The difficulties begin with the characters we are meant to take more seriously. Valentine (Alexander Giles) is so insufferably mistrustful of his beloved Christina that he does not deserve her forgiveness at the end. And given that the smoothie rake, Ranger (Chris Gilling), had been about to rape his mistress, mistaking her for another woman, it is uncomfortable that he is the mouthpiece of the play's final encomium on marriage. It would be idle to claim that this, Wycherley's earliest play, is on the same level of achievement as *The Country Wife*. But Cabot's revival, the first London staging for more than 300 years, proves that its best bits still possess vigorous life.

To 8 Sept. Booking: 0171-794 0022

DANCE Nederlands Dans Theater, Edinburgh Playhouse

Whether dealing with questions of sexual identity or illusion versus reality, Jiri Kylian's work is distinguished by a uniquely human touch. By John Percival

Where does life end and performance begin? Nederlands Dans Theater's 'Bella Figura' has the answer Photograph: Geraint Lewis

The fluency of Jiri Kylian's choreography, his unexpected twists of movement and concern for human values put him streets ahead of his contemporaries. At his best, he is unbeatable, as in the *Six Dances*, one of the works brought to the Edinburgh Festival this week by his Nederlands Dans Theater.

Set to Mozart's *German Dances*, this is an uproariously funny piece, but much more than that. Its dancers – in white wigs, trailing clouds of powder and 18th-century dishabille – show the links between Mozart's time and our own with swift, concise episodes that mingle rivalry, lust, aggression and alarm.

Kylian pulls off something comparable, but with modern music, in *Falling Angels*, where Steve Reich's *Drumming Part I* (fiercely played by Circle Percussion) drives a cast of eight women through constantly changing geometric patterns in every direction of the stage. Each woman emerges briefly as a solo figure, suggesting the individuality as well as the solidarity and strength of her sex.

Placing that piece back to back with no pause against the all-male *Sarabande* renders the latter's send-up of macho posturing and smug confidence all the more devastating. But I wonder why its music, from a Bach *Partita*, had to be so unrecognisably electronically "processed" (by Dick Heuff) into an unbearable cacophony of harsh growls, screams and mocking shouts.

For a man whose choreographic response to music is exceptionally subtle and deep-probing, Kylian can be disconcertingly cavalier in assembling his scores. He treats Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* as a consistent whole for a modern ritual (which needs, I think, to be more tightly danced than it was in Edinburgh), but for two big recent works given, one on each of his festival programmes, he has constructed collages from discrepant sources.

In both these works, Kylian is exploring ideas about life and our attitude to it. *Bella Figura* (which runs musically from Pergolesi to Lukas Foss) is probably the easier to follow, raising questions of what we see and what people do, as the dancers are by turns revealed and masked by moving curtains, asking where performance begins and how it differs from the rest of life.

The theme of *Whereabouts Unknown* is of past and present, or rather, past in present, as references to Aboriginal art and African masks colour the dancing patterns. The highlight of this work is not so much the groups storming and swirling around the stage, thrilling as these are, but the quiet, puzzled, exploratory final duo to Charles Ives's *The Unanswered Question*.

Kylian's 21 years as NDT's artistic director have built a unique and dedicated company of dancers, even if (like Balanchine before him) his attempts to find new choreographers from among them are often less rewarding. Will London follow Edinburgh and catch up with them before Kylian's silver jubilee in four years' time?

OPERA
Un Ballo in Maschera
Holland Park, London

An al fresco masked ball with prize-winning singers. By Nick Kimberley

The Holland Park American Express Prize is given, not for singing a selection of arias and lieder, but for a performance in a complete opera. Many might hope that it would promote some unseemingly upstaging; but it's more of a Man/Woman of the Match Award, a tribute to selfless endeavour on behalf of the team.

In this, the first year of the prize, winners were selected from performances given by Opera Holland Park, making its debut during the Holland Park opera season. In asking Anthony Besch to direct Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Opera Holland Park placed itself in safe hands: too safe, perhaps. Besch was never going to give us *Ballo* as eerie psychodrama, but here it became a drama of firmly struck poses and fiddly business pedantically timed to coincide with the music.

Perhaps Besch found the theatre difficult. Holland Park is an open-air venue, the stage a set of boards in front of a grand building of indeterminate age, from which singers emerge through handsome doors and elegant arches. In the battle against low-flying planes and splashing fountains, singers receive support from discreet amplification. This has the effect of flattening the sound field, as if every singer is equidistant from every listener, but it allows subtleties that might otherwise get lost on the breeze, and also compensates for moments of weightlessness in the reduced orchestra, ably conducted by David Gibson.

Principal roles went to different singers on alternate nights, and the cast I saw benefited from several strong contributions. Christine Bunning, looking like a young Josephine Barstow, showed pure tone and shapely phrasing as Amelia, while Theresa Goble's Madame Arvidson had the requisite ground-shaking chest register. On this occasion, though, it was the men who dominated: Bruce Rankin rarely looked comfortable as the king, Gustavus, but the voice rang out cleanly, an elegant foil for Gerard Quinn's Anckarström, sinister, dark and threatening. It was no surprise that Quinn was the male winner of the aforementioned prize (the alternative Amelia, Jacqueline Evill, won the women's event): he filled the evening air with the menace that the opera demands.

This *Ballo* was sung in Italian, with no surtitles. It was depressing to see so many people reading the synopsis during the performance. The generalised moves of Besch's production revealed little, so there wasn't much alternative. Except to sing it in English.

Last performances: Sat 17, 2.30 & 7.30pm (box office: 0171-602 7856)

TELEVISION A Very Important Pennis (BBC2)

The long-term appeal of the BBC's celebrity stalker may not be as big as some of his victims' egos. By Jasper Rees

In *A Very Important Pennis*, the carrot-topped geek who accosts celebs with scaldingly rude questions was released on Hollywood. And Hollywood, where celebrity is next to godliness, hadn't a clue what to make of him. Time after time, the stars would be seduced, like moths to the flame, into the alluring glare of the camera light, only to get their wings singed to a crisp.

Poor Charlie Sheen, advised that he is "the most polished performer ... a shining example," was struck dumb by the tribute. "I'm not sure how to take that," he said when trapped again later with a gag about Vietnam vets having to look after animals in the jungle. "On the chin," advised Dennis Pennis.

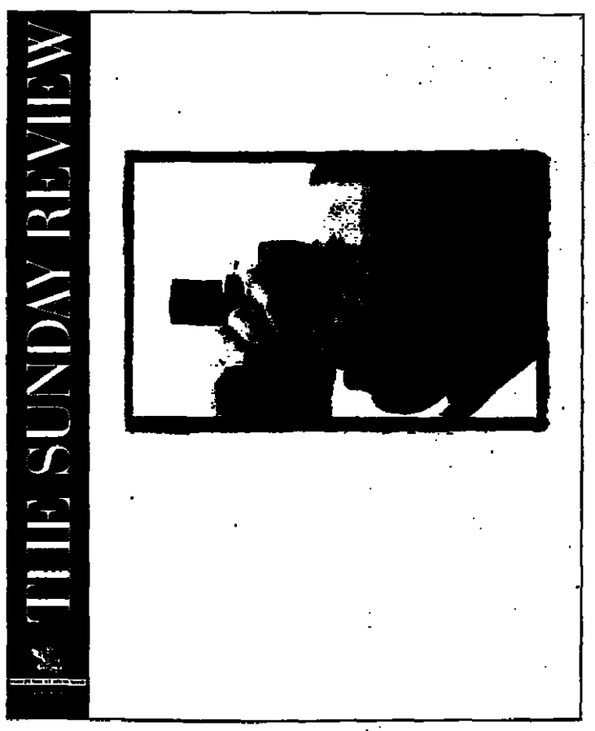
The dice were loaded against even the less dull-witted. Although Pennis the character is American (with an accent that slips under stress), his script team are English, and they unfairly pepper his interrogations with slangy Anglicisms. Jim Carrey had not previously come across someone called Jimmy Riddle. Michael Douglas was none too sure what Pennis meant by his "tackle". The erstwhile alcoholic Drew Barrymore, of course, had never heard of her English namesake Michael, who also enjoys the occasional stiff one.

The obstacle facing Pennis's act is the law of diminishing returns. There are only so many times you can fire off questions to Cindy Crawford about strange pets before your name gets around town. Cindy's rictus froze, while Demi Moore was similarly stunned when asked whether, if it were tastefully done, she'd ever consider doing a movie with her clothes on. Bull's-eye.

A mock report from a Hollywood gossip show warned of Pennis's "anti-celebrity activity". The item may actually have been a mere spoof, but, next time, the PRs of Tinsel Town will see him coming and get out their blackballs. Courtney Love had definitely heard of "this obnoxious guy from England". At the opening of Planet Hollywood, where he skewered most of his victims, he beckoned David Hasselhoff over and asked, "There's a lot of complicated text in *Baywatch*: is it important that the actresses have good mammaries?" A reporter on the patch next to Pennis promptly leaned into shot and told him he was screwing it up for everyone else.

And there could be something in that – the next time the BBC requests a formal interview with, say, Warren Beatty ("Warren, you're not seen in public very often: is it fair to say Beatty is privatised?"), he may dimly recall the corporation logo wrapped round Pennis's microphone and politely decline. Certainly, a wounded Steve Martin excluded Britain from a promotional tour after a brutal Pennising.

When he's not performing the valuable public service of insulting celebrities, Pennis tends to lose his way. In one item used to pad the show out to half an hour, he fronted an ad for a fraudulent exercise accessory. In another, he played a vulpine lawyer of the kind he may one day need himself. The real moth, you suspect, is Pennis himself, sentenced to a short life of frenetic nocturnal activity.



For young blacks in South Central Los Angeles, life is usually nasty, brutish and short. Ennis Beley was lucky: aged 12, he achieved celebrity as a video diarist, then as a photographer. Admirers gave him an education, contacts, hope ... And then, in June, he was killed. **Matthew Heller** tells the story of a hope that failed

Plus: **Helen Fielding** has a bad experience with a pizza

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

GERAINT LEWIS

هكذا من الاصل

Whiskery symbol of a High Bohemian tradition

George Cruikshank's influence on Dickens and Thackeray has been hugely underestimated, says D J Taylor

George Cruikshank's Life, Times and Art Volume 2: 1835-1878 by Robert L Patten, Lutterworth Press, £45

It takes a career like that of George Cruikshank (1792-1878) to remind us just how long the Victorian age extended, and of the myriad phases into which its artistic life divided up. "Phiz" (Hablot K Browne) may have achieved instant celebrity with his illustrations to Dickens; Tenniel may have landed the knighthood; but Cruikshank's is the great brooding presence that hangs over 19th-century periodical illustration. "Boz" was the Cruikshank of literature, the *Spectator* thought, appraising Dickens's early sketches, and in some ways this is less a compliment to the author than an acknowledgment of the whole tradition in which the majority of early Victorian writers did their best work.

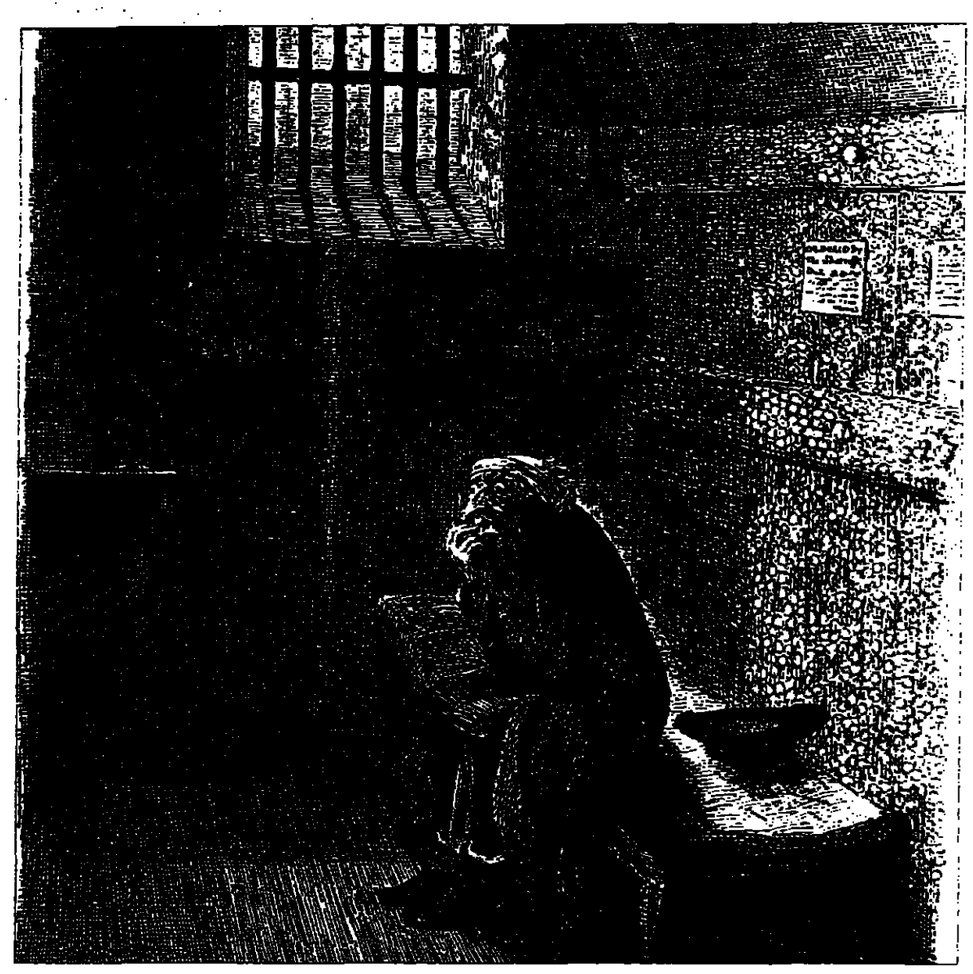
One doesn't need to have more than glanced through a novel such as *Dombey and Son* (illustrated by Browne) to realise the importance of engravings, either done in steel or wood-blocked, for the average early Victorian text. Dickens's correspondence with his illustrators gives an idea of the significance early Victorian practitioners attached to the portrayal of particular scenes and symbols. Thackeray's own illustrations to *Vanity Fair* are full of complex metaphorical games, endlessly refining on the letterpress or providing fresh insights into character and motivation. Realism started to invade Victorian magazines in mid-century – the illustrations to Trollope's later works tend to be of Identikit exquisites of both sexes – but until at least the early 1860s this kind of perfunctoriness was kept at bay, and at their best early Victorian novels are a genuine collaboration between author and artist.

The notion of writer and illustrator working in harness was pre-Victorian, of course: one of the abiding themes of Cruikshank's punctilious biographer is the difficulty his subject found in acclimatising himself to the new mid-century world. Already, in his forties, when Victoria came to the throne, Cruikshank could look back on a career that had begun as long ago as 1805; one of his finest moments had been the racy illustrations to Pierce Egan's *Life in London*, published in 1821.

Attitude, as much as age, marked Cruikshank out from his younger contemporaries. His early work, much of it commissioned by the satirist William Hone, had a sharp, political edge that he was to spend much of his later career trying to repudiate, and beneath the portraiture lay the bristling figure of the man himself – hot-tempered, Bohemian and famous for turning up the worse for drink.

If Cruikshank sometimes seems like a survivor of the lost world of the regency, a venerable throwback to the age of Vauxhall Gardens and Miss Decamp's dance, then to a certain extent these characteristics worked in his favour. Thackeray – to take only one young acolyte – had been deeply impressed as a boy by *Life in London*; Dickens, too, was a fan. By developing connections with the latter's publisher, Bentley, Cruikshank was able to exploit the Dickens-derived boom in early Victorian serial fiction, following up his work on *Sketches by Boz* with some stark illustrations to *Oliver Twist*. W H Ainsworth, the author of *Jack Sheppard* (1839), was another patron, and in *The Tower of London* (1840), a Victorian bestseller, Cruikshank showed what he could do when given his head: no fewer than 40 full-page steel engravings, as well as a host of incidental woodcuts.

Inevitably there were occupational hazards. In particular, as Patten demonstrates, Cruikshank got caught up in the "Newgate" row of the early 1840s, when the growing volume of low-life and delinquency novels, Ainsworth's highwaymen and Dickens's street gangs, led to a public backlash. There are interesting parallels with the current agitation over a film such as *Natural Born Killers* – at one point vendors were supposed to be selling "Shepherdbags" containing housebreaking tools, and the murderer Courvoisier was alleged to have got the idea from seeing a theatrical adaptation of Ainsworth's novel – but public opinion tended to follow Thackeray's rebuke: "Gentlemen and men of genius may amuse themselves with such rascals, but not live with them altogether. The public taste, to be sure, lies that way, but these men should teach the public." The low-life novel died, and was not really revived – in a rather different form – until the end of the century.



'Fagin in the condemned cell': George Cruikshank's illustrations for 'Oliver Twist' (1837) were part of a long collaboration with Dickens

It would be wrong to ascribe Cruikshank's subsequent decline to these abrupt transformations in public taste. Much more of it was to do with an inability to look out for himself in an increasingly complex marketplace, where personal connection was all and authorial touchiness (Dickens's in particular) had to be conciliated at all costs. The list of judgemental errors which Patten attributes to him in the 1940s makes melancholy reading: the estrangement from Ainsworth halfway though publication of *St James's or The Court of Queen Anne* (he was replaced by Phiz, symbolically enough), the falling out with Bentley, the refusal to have anything to do with the vastly successful *Punch*. After he lost both voice and audience, his uneasiness over the difficulties of reinventing himself to meet the demands of a new middle-class public are all too obvious. His old friend Hone, he told readers of his short-lived vehicle, *The Omnibus*, was "the most notorious infidel of his day"; he himself was a liberal only in the sense of "becoming a gentleman, generous not mean". This loss of nerve quickly transferred itself to his art, which hovered between a sympathy with Victorian conservatism and a harking back to the radical days of his youth.

Drink ("*Hic haec* always sticks in my throat" he is supposed to have remarked, of his ignorance of Latin, "but the *hoc* goes down") and temper did the rest. From the mid-1840s he went in for temperance, contributing a lucrative series of plates to *The Bottle*, but his great days were gone and he knew it. In old age he was reduced to issuing pamphlets claiming that many of Dickens's and Ainsworth's ideas had been his own, and he had to suffer the embarrassment of having his designs for the Bruce statue in Stirling turned down by the judging committee.

In fact, as Patten convincingly shows, one or two of Cruikshank's claims about his influence on *Oliver Twist* merit some kind of consideration (Dickens certainly discussed chapters with him in advance) and Ainsworth, a markedly inferior writer, seems to have composed large parts of *The Tower of London* to an illustrative plan devised by his artist. Cruikshank's influence was incalculable. Patten, for instance, thinks that Thackeray, who collaborated with his mentor in the 1830s, may have picked up the idea for *Vanity Fair* from a design for a new edition of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

George Cruikshank: Life, Times and Art is a phenomenally good book – detailed but never dull, learned, thorough and entertainingly written. If the Cruikshank who wanders through it occasionally seems a rather sketchy figure, this is only because of the dearth of extant material about his personal life – his consumptive first wife, Mary Anne, for example, is simply an absence. Many of the best glimpses of him come from Dickens (they eventually quarrelled over temperance), including a comic portrait from William Hone's funeral: "George has enormous whiskers which straggle all down his throat ... and stick out in front of him, like a partially unravelled bird's nest." When a Methodist minister complained about an obituary of Hone, which he believed to have been written by Cruikshank, "George (upon his knees, and sobbing for the loss of an old friend) whispered to me 'that if it wasn't a clergyman, and it wasn't a funeral, he'd have punched his head'."

Patten is suspicious of this, thinking it written for patronising comic effect, but the tone is reinforced by a much more matter-of-fact account of an evening spent by author and illustrator: "George Cruikshank got rather drunk here, last Friday night, and declined to go away until four in the morning, when he went – I don't know where, but certainly not home." If nothing else, Cruikshank is a symbol of the High Bohemian tradition on which so much early Victorian art was built, and also of the difficulties of moving beyond that base. Thackeray, a younger man by 20 years, would eventually adapt himself to the sensibilities of his audience. For Cruikshank, despite the affection in which the late-Victorian public held his name, there was only cold water and self-serving letters to the *Times*.

Abandoning words for the battlefields of the Somme

Carole Angier finds an account of Edith Wharton's war work takes biographical detail a step too far

The End of the Age of Innocence: Edith Wharton and the First World War by Alan Price, Hale, £17.99

In her mid-fifties, Edith Wharton, the pampered, patrician novelist, abandoned her writing career to spend nearly four years travelling out to the battlefields of the First World War. There she drove herself nearly to physical breakdown with the sad and heavy burden of trying to care for jobless women, orphaned children and tubercular soldiers.

It was admirable work but, in biographical terms, it makes for extremely tedious copy. And as Professor Price tells it in this brief book, it is staggeringly boring. Price piles on the detail, mostly about money and squabbles (alas, charity is mostly about money and squabbles), hardly pausing to consider what it all means. And when he does pause to consider, you wish he hadn't; the results are of such eye-stretching obviousness. What effect did Wharton's dedication to war work have on her fiction? It limited her output! (She herself said it left her "pentied".) Why did this sophisticated social satirist descend to sentimental fiction and propaganda pieces? To save the lives of her orphans and refugees!

If ever Price makes a point with some content, it immediately appears to be wrong. For example: the effects of the war "would be with Edith Wharton for the rest of her life", he intones; he then describes how she went straight back to her writing, and wrote about many of the same unmilitary things (e.g. incest) she always had done. And if ever he makes a point once, he makes it several times: in the preface, in each chapter, and in the summary at the end of each chapter (well, of most chapters).

"The End of the Age of Innocence" is not only his title, it is also the last line of his preface and the last line of his book. But at least "The First World War ushered in the true end of the age of innocence" is not obviously meaningless. Unlike his other main point – made in the preface, chapter one, and the conclusion: "For a novelist who made fictional worlds and for woman who created aesthetic spaces (her houses and their gardens), the loss of control [represented by the war] was traumatic." More traumatic than for people who didn't create aesthetic spaces?

I suppose I did learn one or two interesting things. That the American Army was 17th in size in the world, for instance, when it entered the First World War; or that when several hundred American writers and editors were polled in 1914, the vast majority favoured neutrality. By contrast the reactions of Wharton herself, and of her friend Henry James, put us all to shame. She did the work described here. He said "The war has used up words." If only it had.

There have already been five Lives of Edith Wharton, including two big ones only two years ago. You would not think there was much left to say – and you would be right. Price (Associate Professor of English and American Studies, Penn State) has found a career-publishing niche in Wharton's First World War charity work, and has already overfilled it in the academic journals. That's fine: it's what they're there for. But it does not seem to have occurred to him (or to Hale) that this space may have been left because it wasn't worth occupying. With touching naivety he thanks Wharton's last two biographers for sharing materials with him. I am sure Shari Benstock and Eleanor Dwight are nice and generous people. But I do not think it cost them very much to share this particular material with Price.

It is sad, because it was brave of Robert Hale to publish a minority interest literary book, and to publish it so handsomely, on better paper and in better print than most big, greedy publishers spare for their bestsellers. But Hale's judgement, unfortunately, was not equal to its courage.

Operatic visions in a conspiratorial world

Academics still tie themselves in knots over the Wagnerian phenomenon. Never mind the theories, what about the music says Dermot Clinch

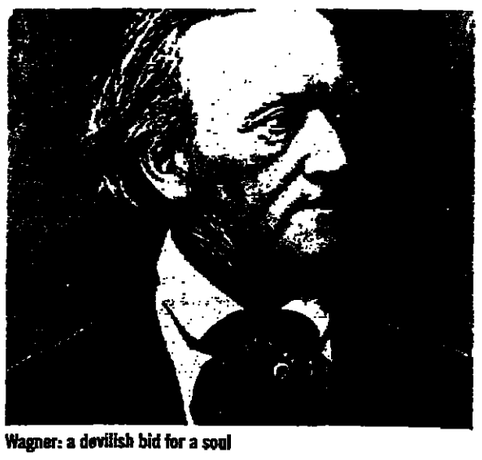
Wagner by Michael Tanner HarperCollins, £16.99

"I fear Wagnerians. They are capable of ruining my enjoyment of even the best of Wagner." Brahms had been quick to identify the perennial Wagner problem. Wagner, more than a mere composer or a mere dramatist, was a phenomenon. His dramas were the vehicle of a philosophy, his art was the focus of theories – his own and others – like no art before. Like Freud in Auden's poem, "In Memory of Sigmund Freud", like Jesus Christ to whom he is compared in this book on more than one occasion, Wagner created a "climate of opinion". There are Freudians and Christians. And there are Wagnerians.

Where there are believers, there will often be dissenters, and it is these who weigh on the mind of Michael Tanner, Cambridge philosophy don and new opera critic of the *Spectator*. "Why are people not grateful," he wails towards the end of his book, "for what he has given them?" But even this, the last of many such complaints, is forced. The days of deep Wagner controversy are long gone. In place of idolisation and demonisation, the pro and contra debates that animated the arts last century, in place even of the taint of association with Hitler, the worst that Wagner's operas encounter these days is a bit of temperamental incompatibility. No one doubts that Wagner's place among the "most significant composers" is now secure. Even the question of anti-Semitism in the operas has an academic air, and hardly affects the listening public.

Wagnerians have always thrived, however, on the vision of a world locked in conspiracy against the great man. Michael Tanner's book is an old-fashioned apology, and none the worse for it. Priding himself on his good old common sense – he once thought of founding a magazine called *Rigour, Incorporating Standards and Values*, so he claims – Tanner asks the questions any worthwhile sceptic will want answered. Do we have to accept Wagner's high-flown intellectual stuff in order to regard the operas as "more than bizarre actions set to frequently wonderful music"? Do we need to believe what Tristan and Isolde sing, simply because the music sounds nice? Those superhuman folk in Wagner's operas – giants, dwarfs, axe-wielding heroes – do they serve a "useful as opposed to a thrilling ... purpose"?

Clearly put they may be. But once put, the questions hang tantalisingly unanswered, or merely obscured. Tanner may be a student of philosophy, a man of wide reading and vigorous opinions, but he has an impenetrable way with words. Should we believe what Tristan and Isolde sing? "The only answer ... is that the experience of love at its most intense becomes an intuition that its fulfilment can only be found in a renunciation of the self, undertaken all the more willingly because the tortures of being a self are so intolerable." And we thought Wagner was a composer! Here once more, with a vengeance, is the old Wagner-as-sage routine, the very one that has been putting newcomers off the great composer for the last hundred and more years. In Tanner's thorough run-through of Wagner's career each opera is treated, not as a work of music, but as a more or less efficient illustration of one man's developing thought. Chapter seven: "Wagner Ponders"; Chapter eight: "What is *The Ring* About?"; Chapter twelve: "Art, Tradition and Authority". Tanner's book is addressed to those with "some, not necessarily very much, acquaintance" with the operas, but it looks desperately optimistic.



Wagner: a devilish bid for a soul

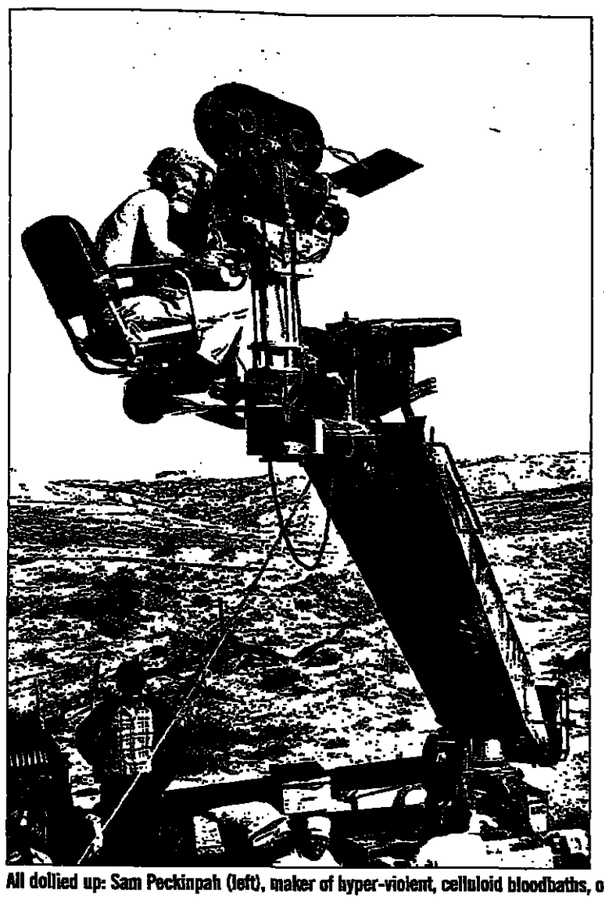
The *Tristan* chapter, in particular, is impressive, developing an earlier argument of the author that the opera is "one of the two greatest religious works of our culture". But much of the work is hard going. Why take Wagner's word for it, I have always wondered, that he was a worthy philosopher, social scientist, anthropologist? Surely Wagner is the classic case of an artist whose work requires criticism and probing, rather than respectful exegesis. Tanner, however, finds systems of thought where others might find casual insights and *aperçus*. Act II of *Tristan und Isolde* is not merely of psychological interest, it is a "demolition" of the underlying notions of psychology. *The Ring* is no mere artistic creation, it is a "great commentary" on human society and its possibilities.

And the music? Those who doubt Wagner most, Tanner writes, are those who feel him "making a devilish bid for their souls". No doubt he is right, though he is surely wrong to identify that bid as primarily intellectual. Wagner's art appeals to the gut before the reason, and it is the music that does it. Shunning musical technicalities, as Tanner does, is fair enough. But to find no alternative method of talking about the music, and so to dismiss it almost altogether, is a grave dereliction.

books

A matter of life and death in the film industry

Faber's new series of movie biographies is launched this month. Frank McLynn goes for the wrap



All dollied up: Sam Peckinpah (left), maker of hyper-violent, celluloid bloodbaths, on the set of 'The Wild Bunch' (1969); William Holden (centre) and Ernest Borgnine (right)

Movie biographies have come of age only in the present generation. Thirty years ago books written about the stars and directors of the silver screen were overwhelmingly scissors-and-paste jobs, where the principal source was the cuttings file. Nowadays film scholarship tends to be meticulous, with each studio archive carefully annotated and each interview scrupulously dated. The result has been some very fine books: Leaming on Welles, Spoto on Hitchcock, Manso on Brando, Lewis on Sellers, to name a handful. This tradition is maintained in the half-dozen volumes with which Faber launches its series of movie biographies (all £12.99 paperback).

Kevin MacDonald's **Emmeric Pressburger. The Life and Death of a Screenwriter** (467pp) is a labour of love, as Pressburger was his grandfather. In partnership with Michael Powell as "The Archers", Pressburger wrote some of the finest movies in British film history: *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, *A Matter of Life and Death*, *Black Narcissus*. Although he died at 86, his career was essentially finished at 50. While Michael Powell enjoyed a revival and was taken up by Hollywood luminaries like Coppola and Scorsese, Pressburger was the forgotten man. The old joke says that if you have a Hungarian for a friend you don't need enemies, but this particular Hungarian refugee from the Nazis was really the one let down by *his* friend. Having over the years patched up many quarrels caused by the mercurial and difficult Powell, he was not taken under the umbrella when Powell's career got a new lease of life.

Although it should be taken with a pinch of salt, Don Siegel's **A Siegel Film** (500pp) is the most entertaining of the six. Siegel was a highly talented director of action movies (*Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *Charley Varrick*, *The Shootist*) and did much to further the career of Clint Eastwood who figures prominently in these pages. Much of Siegel's book is taken up with a kind of "Thucydidean" dialogue with movie greats, allegedly a faithful transcript of the conversations. Now, either we have to accept that Siegel was an early Tony Benn, in that he tape-recorded everything, or we must believe that all this is in the spirit of *l'escalier*. Since Siegel is consistently witty and wise and invariably gets the better of all his interlocutors, the conclusion is obvious.

Joseph Losey fled his native US and the anti-communist witchhunts to make a new career in Britain in 1952. He was one of the legion whose fame was a Sixties' phenomenon, being particularly associated with Dirk Bogarde (*The Servant*, *Accident*) and with Burton and Taylor. But what really established his reputation was the paean from the influential *Cahiers du Cinéma* where one critic straight-facedly compared him to Valery, Nietzsche, Hegel, Bach and Stendahl. According to David Caute in **Joseph Losey. A Revenge on Life** (591pp), Losey was a deeply unpleasant man, an apologist for Stalin who tried to avoid conscription in the Second World War and ducked a real confrontation with the McCarthyites. Certainly he got on the wrong side of J Edgar Hoover, and the lengthy FBI file is an important source for this book.

Another director to joust with the paladins of the House Un-American Activities Committee was Nicholas Ray, like Losey a darling of *Cahiers du Cinéma*. Bernard Eisenschitz was a member of the board on that magazine, and the main fault of his **Nicholas Ray. An American Journey** (599pp) is that he concentrates overly on the film *oeuvre* so that there is too little about Ray's private life. Ray was divorced after a brief marriage to Gloria Grahame, who promptly married Ray's eldest son. This should make sensational copy, but Eisenschitz mentions it and then hurries on to more film criticism. Given that many of Ray's movies (*Rebel without a Cause*, *Run for Cover*) centre on father-son conflict, this seems an odd way to write a biography.

The problem with Joseph McBride's **Frank Capra. The Catastrophe of Success** (763pp) is that the author does not like his subject. It is of course permissible for a biographer to "take against" his hero while writing the life, but McBride shows no real understanding of Capra the artist, and should have cried off the project on those grounds. In this book Capra is always wrong: he failed the challenge of the blacklist, and the real credit for his best films should go to the screenwriter Robert Riskin, Pressburger to Capra's Powell. Even in the dispute with Columbia's notorious studio head Harry Cohn, where Capra was undoubtedly in the right, McBride manages to suggest that Capra overreacted and behaved self-destructively.

The opposite problem arises with David Weddle's **Sam Peckinpah. 'If They Move...Kill 'Em!'**. This is a further devotional offering to the cult of Peckinpah, misogynist, racist (see his treatment of Mexicans) and maker of hyper-violent celluloid bloodbaths. Of course for the Peckinpah cultists, the man is a genius, but there is not much one can do about cults. Weddle seems unable to grasp the point that it is permissible to make one film about hyper-violence (as Kubrick did with *A Clockwork Orange* and later recanted) but not to base a career on it. I wonder if anyone has ever produced such a string of prize turkeys as Peckinpah (*Straw Dogs*, *Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia*, *Convoy*, *The Killer Elite*, *Cross of Iron*, *The Osterman Weekend*). Faber's new venture is a treat for cinephiles, but tighter quality control in the product is recommended for the future.

All you need to know about the books you meant to read — by Gavin Griffiths

THE LEOPARD (1958)
by Giuseppe di Lampedusa

Lampedusa, a Sicilian nobleman, wrote his only novel to assuage melancholy. It was assembled and published posthumously.

Plot: Prince Fabrizio is the leopard, a self-absorbed aristocrat. In middle-age, facing the threat of Garibaldi and the Italian unification movement, he feels lapped in loneliness and treats his relatives with quiet disdain. The exception is Tancredi, his nephew. As the Bourbon king is deposed, Fabrizio knows that the old life is doomed. He encourages Tancredi to marry Angelica Sedara, daughter of a rich peasant. Concetta, Fabrizio's daughter, is mortified, for she loves Tancredi with ferocious pride. Marriage arrangements are completed and to celebrate the betrothal, there is a ball. As the Prince dances with Angelica, there are intimations of mortality. Twenty years later he has a stroke and dies in an hotel. Another 30 years pass. Concetta, a spinster, guards the palace. Angelica arrives and Concetta wonders whether she might have married Tancredi after all. Tancredi has been buried some time: Concetta knows that the truth is buried with him.

Theme: Fabrizio watches "the ruin of his own class without ever making any move towards saving it." His decadence is a reflection of Sicily's. The illusions of political improvement are pitched against the certainty that happiness is transitory.

Style: Combining Count Tolstoy's bemused hauteur with Proust's sense of universal loss, the prose is archaic, aloof and voluptuous.

Chief strengths: Fabrizio's quietism is subjected to irony. Lampedusa's belief that the modern world is trite and fussy parallels his exposure of the Prince as cruel and unthinking.

Chief weaknesses: The story is so episodic that the characters have little room for development.

What they thought of it then: Initially turned down for publication, the book subsequently enjoyed worldwide success.

What we think of it now: Falls into the minor classic bracket along with *Le Grand Meaulnes*, *Catcher in the Rye* and *The Good Soldier*.

Responsible for: Visconti's film (1963) which is a *tour de force* despite bizarre dubbing and the imaginative decision to cast Burt Lancaster as the Prince.

Who's reading whom

Molly Parkin finds harmony of mind in the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson

I admire Emerson for his mystical idealism which has had such a profound impact on American thought and culture. Richard Geldard's *The Vision of Emerson* (Element) does full justice to his concept of the infinitude of the individual: that every person and every *thing* is an integral part of the universe. The universe has at its heart an essential balance which the acts of men can affect, but are ultimately affected by. Alice A Bailey's *The Soul* (Lucas) subtitled "The Quality of Life", examines the issue from the Tibetan perspective.

Audiobooks

The Horse Whisperer
read by William Dufris
In Patagonia
read by James Wilby

The combination of pacey action, skilful cross-cutting and contemplative asides makes Nicholas Evans's highly-praised first novel **The Horse Whisperer** (Chivers, unabridged, 12hrs 40 mins, £16.95) perfectly suited to being heard rather than read. Delivered with well-sustained sympathy by New Englander William Dufris, it is absolutely gripping.

James Wilby does full justice to Bruce Chatwin's extraordinary quest voyage **In Patagonia** (Reed Audio, 3hrs, £7.99), bringing its diverse characters vividly to life in accents that range effortlessly from whisky-sodden old pat to demonically-inventive new Pat. It's an irresistible taster for the whole book.

Christina Hardyment

Trouble under the lilac tree

Kate Atkinson is bewitched by a tale of two sisters

Practical Magic
by Alice Hoffman
Macmillan, £15.99

A long time ago Maria Owens came to Massachusetts with "her baby daughter, and a packet of diamonds sewn into the hem of her dress" and not much more. Since then every Owens woman has displayed her inheritance from Maria – a pair of grey eyes and a feeling for the extraordinary that lies just beneath the surface of the ordinary.

The otherworld that always inhabits the fringes of Alice Hoffman's books – the ghosts, the supernatural powers – is allowed a place centre stage in this book. For here are the aunts who can do real magic, who can cast a spell or make up love potions for the women who come to their back door at twilight, because the aunts, who smell "like lavendar and sulphur", can "read desperation a mile away" and are not above sticking pins in the hearts of doves to give some foolish woman what she thinks she wants.

The aunts wear long black skirts and laced leather boots and they're so old "it's impossible to tell their age," but once long ago they were so beautiful that boys killed themselves for love. The aunts bring up orphan sisters, Gillian and Sally, after their parents die. The aunts' ideas on child-rearing are unconventional – "Sally and Gillian were never told to go to bed before midnight or reminded to brush their teeth". But people are afraid of the Owens, they cross their fingers or cross the street in case they get hexed.

Gillian and Sally, "night and day", grow up as different as only sisters can. Sally "as conscientious as Gillian is idle". Gillian runs away and marries several times, preferring the hot dry atmosphere of the desert to the fertile fecundity of Massachusetts, spending her whole life "trying to be as self-sufficient as a stone". Sally becomes a wife, becomes a mother – to another set of Owens sisters. Antonia and Kylie – becomes a widow and decides to leave for somewhere where there's no horse's skull nailed to the fence to warn children away and "where no one pointed when her daughters walked down the street". And for years Sally achieves the normal life she craved, but she should know better: you can leave but you can't let go and you can't take the magic out of an Owens woman.

Then Sally turns up suddenly one night. She's brought her latest beau, Jimmy. He's sitting outside in the Oldsmobile as docile as a lamb for once, "Tall, dark, handsome and dead". The men in *Practical Magic* are handsome and good or handsome and bad. Jimmy, with his snakeskin boots and silver ring is "by far the best-looking guy Sally has ever seen, dead or alive" and Jimmy is very, very bad.

They bury Jimmy under the lilac trees at the bottom of the garden, but he won't rest. He keeps on bringing "bad fortune" and hangs around malevolently. The bad magic under the lilacs is a catalyst for change in this long hot summer of "humidity and greenery." Sally finds logic isn't enough and stops denying her emotions. Gillian stops running.

As ever, Hoffman draws a mean adolescent, and Kylie and Antonia are no exception. "Thirteen is a dangerous age. It's the time when a girl can snap, when good can turn to bad for no apparent reason, and you can lose your own child if you're not careful." Sally's girls grow, losing their outer magic, finding their inner magic. Gillian discovers something that every Owens woman before her has probably known, that "there is a progression and a sequence of possibilities when dealing with who a human can and will be."

Like the flashes of lightning that dart through the hot summers of this book, "trouble is just like love...it comes in unannounced and takes over before you've had a chance to reconsider, or even to think". Love is the redemptive force, of course. For Gillian there's Ben, a biology teacher and an amateur magician. For Sally there will be Gary Hallet who wears cowboy boots "coated with dust and is lean and tall like a scarecrow". Unfortunately he's also an investigator with the attorney general's office and is looking for Jimmy.

In the end, the aunts come up trumps, hot-footing it to Sally's house to deal with the "problem" under the lilac. The aunts aren't stupid, they've watched Oprah, they can deal with anything.

Hoffman isn't just Tyler-plus-magic realism, she's a great atmospheric story teller. Her books are full of women who keep on making lasagne and tunafish casserole while around them life dissolves into chaos before it rises up and reforms into a new logic. Her books are a real pleasure – practical magic.

Bare-faced cheek

Patricia Craig reads a boys' own story of souped-up shenanigans

The Cove Shivering Club
Michael Curtin
Fourth Estate, £8.99

This is a very Irish novel: it's obsessive, inflated, cliquish, and keeps its women on the sidelines. Narrated by Junior Rash (Junior? What kind of an Irish name is Junior?), it is all about male competitiveness and camaraderie, full of coded repartee and abundant in minor characters with monikers like Budge and Butch and Batsy and Kerr the Cop. It's a bit self-reflexive too. The narrator is a comic novelist based in Kensal Rise, author of such works as *Hand Me Down* and *The Second-hand Wardrobe* (Michael Curtin has written *The Self-Made Men* and *The Plastic Tomato Cutter*) though he spends a lot of time back in the west of Ireland carrying on with his old swimming mates: the Cove Shivering Club.

To join this virile body (men only, of course) you need to swim "bollock-naked" back and forth across the bay on a Good Friday, when the water is best described as "fresh". This feat is duly performed by Junior and his friend Dunstan Tucker, both aged ten, in 1955 – and a subsequent childhood disappointment, the failure of his father to raise the money for a week at the Seaside, warps Dunstan and leaves him with a mission in life: to get the better of banks. Dunstan's demented and convoluted financial dealings, and a Shivering Club presedential election, form the substance of Michael Curtin's plot.

The novel comes with an accolade from Roddy Doyle ("sparkling and hilarious"), and indeed it has something of Doyle's own gusto and demotic charm, laid on thick. However, it is likely that only those whose taste runs to masculine knowingness, endearing pugnacity or souped-up shenanigans, will get the most out of it. For the rest of us, I suspect, an element of tiresomeness may obstruct the fullest appreciation of its attitudes and antics. For example, the central financial *idée fixe* and its workings-out become increasingly over-elaborate.

Curtin: knockabout loquacity

And what are we to make of Junior's one-time schoolmaster, a Brother Chunkey, who first of all confesses to having had the hand of a cleaning woman up his soutane, and then goes on to clobber a pub singer in nun's garb calling herself Baptista and the Virgins? Perhaps the point is that there are no virgins in this act, just as the ex-Christian Brother himself embodies certain social upheavals in Irish life over the last 40-odd years – though what hasn't changed, it seems, is Irishmen's inability to embrace egalitarianism readily. Sexual appraisal, for example, still gets itself expressed in atrocious colloquialisms – "a terrific pair of diddies...would put a stalk on a dead Dominican".

The thing is to be as racy and incorrigible as possible. With *The Cove Shivering Club*, it's true, the narrator's ironic distance – all those "kids trying to be men and men hanging on to childhood", as he describes himself and his Swimming Club associates – helps to temper the endless knockabout loquacity, which threatens to become overwhelming, what with London-Irish, pub frequenters' and native barmen's palaver. And there are moments when salutary fun is poked at such importations from the modern world as the Social Services Centre. What is overwhelming, though, is the orgy of cordiality which brings things to a close, with all fighting talk erased and apparent betrayals of friendship overturned. While you can't accuse the novel of displaying insufficient boldness, fluency or exuberance, you might, with justice, question its sharpness or discrimination. It doesn't lack a kind of rumbustious appeal – but, as with all clubs and coteries, this appeal is ultimately limited.

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Taking the Kombi to the wonga vine

Bee-keeping hippies in New South Wales? Who cares, says Hugo Barnacle

The Glade Within the Grove
David Foster
Fourth Estate, £16.99

You can bet that a novel calling itself *The Glade Within the Grove* will deal, in some probably obscure way, with the ritual goings-on in the Sacred Grove of Diana at Nemi, as detailed by Sir James Frazer in his archaeo-anthropological classic *The Golden Bough*, best remembered as a source for *The Waste Land*. I forget who coined the phrase "bitten by the Golden Bow-Wow" to describe writers who become preoccupied with this subject, but it seems particularly appropriate in David Foster's case, because, like his narrator, D'Arcy D'Oliveres, he is a former postman.

D'Arcy, now retired from his New South Wales rounds, happens to own the sole copy of an epic poem called "The Ballad of Erinungarah". He found it in the post, addressed "To Whom It May Concern." It tells the story of a hippie commune which was established in a secluded NSW valley in 1968 and broke up about 20 years later. The men mostly got tired of all the promiscuous sex, castrated themselves and turned into trees like the ancient god Attis. The children of course moved to Sydney as soon as they were old enough.

The poem was written by a commune member, now in an asylum. Having located him and other survivors, D'Arcy tells the story himself, largely in reconstructed dialogue, with added digressions on the history of the potato, the fitting of penis rings, beekeeping and anything else that crops up.

Unfortunately this Shandyesque method means that after 400-odd pages, when lung cancer stops him writing any more, D'Arcy has only covered the first year of the commune's existence. Nothing much actually happens except a few arguments and a battery-charging problem with the VW Kombi van. (There is a local killer on the loose, but he turns out to be a bit of a *non-sequitur*.) All the rest we have to gather from footnotes and asides.

It is quite difficult, in fact, to gather anything. In the long dialogue passages, Foster never says who is speaking. He just prints the lines and you try to work it out for yourself. He seldom says what the characters are doing, either. Nor is it always clear where they are or how they got there.

Interior settings consist of lists of objects, exterior settings of botanical names: "Cockspur, blushing bindweed, wonga vine. Higher up, on the dry ridge, hickory wattle, cranberry heath, Swainson pea, slender bitter pea, prickly shaggy pea, leafless sourbrush."

There are innumerable clevernesses that don't quite come off. D'Arcy, explaining the importance of trees to the climate, says, "Irish weather has steadily deteriorated over the past 1000 years...since the coming of the Celt, with his iron axe." But the Celts came to Ireland more like 2000 years ago.

Or again, "According to Mark, whose Gospel was the first Gospel to appear, the Incarnation of Christ occurred at the moment of Baptism...His Mother is of no more concern to me than the woman next door." But the idea of Incarnation does not appear in the Gospels at all, and was only confirmed as doctrine by the Council of Chalcedon in 351.

Or again, "Perusal of Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*...We read where Lancelot, wounded in battle, lay with Queen Guenevere all night, but both denied adultery when sprung the next day. He probably didn't put it in."

But Malory says, "sir Launcelot wente to bedde with the quene and toke no force of hys hurte honde, but toke hys pleasaunce and hys lykynge untyll hit was the dawnyng of the day," which hardly sounds like a *nuit blanche*. And he didn't hurt his hand in battle, he did it breaking in through the window, which also suggests he meant business.

Or again, Eugene the American deserter says of his time as a GI in Vietnam, "And people don't seem to know what I've been through, you know?...The noise from those B52s!"

Very funny, except that the B52s were stationed in Thailand and Guam, far from Vietnam, and over the war zone they cruised eight miles high, notoriously inaudible from the ground. It was their silence that made them so sinister.

Almost all the book's smart-alec observations come unstuck one way or another. But at least it makes for consistency of tone, and it may be part of an ironic post-modern strategem, along with the sexist treatment of the women characters and the prevailing absence of point, intended as a comment on the sloppymindedness of hippies. Hard to say, or care.

ERNST BENARY, ERFURT

Like his modern counterpart, the supermarket manager, the Victorian kitchen gardener was an ambitious man - producing everything from winter pineapples, grapes, apricots, and avocado pears to the six varieties of Swiss Chard, illustrated here by Ernst Benary in 1876 (clockwise from top left, golden-veined Brazilian, crimson-veined Brazilian, common or spinach, yellow Chilean, red Chilean, silver-veined.) Benary's luscious drawings are taken from Susan Campbell's mouth-watering and informative book, 'Charleston Kedding. A History of Kitchen Gardening' (Ebury Press, £30.00) which explores and illustrates the horticultural secrets of the kitchen garden from Roman times to the present day.

Gas lights and red crabs under a yellow moon

A novel about the artists and intelligentsia of war-time France is ruined by too much chat, says Carol Birch

Matisse's War
by Peter Everett
Cape, £15.99

In its long and chequered history the novel has taken many forms but this is the first time I've encountered it in the guise of reference book. If you are interested in the intellectual, social and artistic élite in France during the Second World War, they are all here – Matisse, Picasso, Malraux, Bonnard, Aragon, Cartier-Bresson, Coco Chanel, Hemingway, Breton...

These are a few of the big names. The problem is, it's impossible to keep track of the literally hundreds of less illustrious names that are paraded through these pages. The book cries out for an index. When, for example, towards the end of the book you read of the death in Auschwitz of Daniele and Maie Politzer, you have a vague recollection of their appearance somewhere amongst the 300-odd pages; but you can't for the life of you muster much more than the fact that their names ring a bell. They probably joined in a three-page formal discussion on life, art or politics, then vanished. For of such the book largely consists.

Matisse, at 70, keeps his head down, pursuing a course of resolute non-involvement and worrying about the problems of getting art materials in wartime ("There is no joy to equal that of buying a kilo of blue pigment, or of yellow ochre; even of black."). "My function is to paint," Matisse goes on to declare, "not to bear witness."

The surrealist poet, Louis Aragon, and his wife Elsa Triolet join the Resistance. Aragon fights, witnessing the horrors of combat first-hand. And the war drags on. Matisse, we are told, "gave up seeking to extract the meaningful at the time as he gave up any interest in the audience's anticipation of narrative." Everett's book mirrors this.

Matisse's War is highly stylised, consisting of numerous short, unrelated sections through which the vast cast drifts, endlessly talking shop.

And how they talk. Like well-rehearsed guests in a studio discussion, like voice-overs for a highbrow documentary, they enlighten, inform, conjecture; flawless speeches are delivered word perfect, so long and textual that sometimes you lose the sense of the spoken word altogether and are pulled up short by the sudden incongruity of an inverted comma at the end of several weighty paragraphs. Everybody sounds the same.

Somewhere here there is a novel trying to get out. There is an old man worried about the effects of barbarism on his work, the patient ennui of ageing lovers, scenes of horror and pathos and the chronic disorder of war. The writing is polished and formal, the descriptions of Matisse's paintings glow: "My moon is yellow with a red spiral. You can see Antibes in the upper left of the painting; gas lamps light the sea to lure the fish, and a crab hangs on the rocks." But every novelistic shoot is drowned in an ocean of information.

Peter Everett is an erudite man, his research meticulous, but *Matisse's War* would have been a far more successful book if he had not tried to include everything. So great are his efforts to shoehorn in yet one more fact about the period, one more newspaper reference, that whole scenes and conversations seem contrived purely for this purpose. So great is the control that variation is banished, and the same tone conveys passion, pain, joy and outrage. Somehow, despite the depicted brightness of the Matisse canvases, all is monotone.

Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst

Beyond a Boundary by C.L.R. James (Serpent's Tail, £8.99) First published in 1963, this is not quite the ground-breaking synthesis of cricket and politics that some have claimed. It incorporates a beautifully observed memoir of Trinidad ("on Sunday...the underwear of the women crackled with starch") but occasionally strays into tedious didacticism. The heart of the book is passionate and profound study of West Indian inter-war cricketing heroes, ranging from the "princely" Learie Constantine to a forgotten wicket-keeping genius called Piggott who held his hands "one inch from the wicket".

A Wild Herb Soup by Emilie Carles (Indigo, £7.99) This lucid, unsentimental memoir of hard times in a sublime Alpine community was an international best-seller. Born into grinding poverty in 1900, Carles was clever and hard-working enough to get herself a good education. Though her life was marked by tragedy – her mother struck by lightning, her sister sent mad by an alcoholic, pyromaniac husband – Carles emerges as resilient and high principled. An ardent pacifist, she fought and won a fierce battle against the motorway planned for her isolated homeland. An incandescent life-story ill-served by an infinitesimal typeface.

Intimacy by Julian Rathbone (Indigo, £5.99) Living alone in a sun-baked villa high in the Sierra Nevada, David Querubin, the world's last castrato, decides to share the final days of his life with a young female acolyte. A mutually satisfying arrangement as both singers (as they discover over several bottles of rosé) turn out to have suffered more than their fair share of incest – the young woman with her father, the castrato with his mother. Practising their scales, they rehearse their pasts. If mutilated organs and silk pyjamas don't turn you on, Rathbone's high standards of interior decor just might. Sophisticated entertainment from an old pro.

The Divine Invasion by Philip K. Dick (HarperCollins, £5.99) Science fiction writers don't come weirder than the late Philip K. Dick. This, the sequel to *Valis*, one of the author's best known books, is no less than the story of God, alias an "autochthonic" being named Yah who hangs out on a far-away planet. When Yah attempts to invade earth by immaculately conceiving himself in the womb of a human woman, he's pursued by abortion-promoting members of the "new" Catholic church. To save the earth, he must be reborn. Dick obviously never lacked for compelling ideas. And yes, he *did* do drugs.

Knight Errant by Robert Stephens (Sceptre, £6.99) The culmination of a final, astonishing burst – a period which also saw Stephens' legendary Lear and Falstaff - this is the theatrical equivalent of Alan Clark's tell-all memoirs. Hugely entertaining, it is thick with juicy gobbets of gossip: Oliver, naked before a mirror, declaring: "What a tragedy that such a very great actor should have such a very small cock". Coward insisting that males in his pool should be naked while females had to wear swimsuits; the amorous author finding himself alone with Antonia Fraser "And that was that La-la-la." As exit lines go, they don't come much better than this book.

In the Sixties ed by Ray Connolly (Pavilion, £6.99) Clever and assiduous, Connolly's cull of clippings ranges far beyond the usual Sixties hippy-druggy-pop *Zeitgeist*. Of course, this milieu does appear – an amusing piece about Ken Kesey in London, Lennon's infamous "We're more popular than Jesus" interview and Rees-Mogg's "butterfly-on-a-wheel" defence of Jagger. But there's also Khe Sanh, Profumo, Aberfan and Ulster, together with a pleasing assortment of oddities including profiles of Charles Atlas and Ivy Benson. Connolly's contention that "it was an excellent era for journalism" more than holds up.

Old Scores by Frederic Raphael (Phoenix, £6.99) Raphael's latest novel of "bright young things" (not Oxbridge undergrads in long scarves, but Eighties yuppies) is worth reading just for his stabs at contemporary dialogue. "Hairy hell! Sod it, honestly!" exclaims a *Daily Telegraph*-like journalist when he finds his penis covered in white paint. To which his girlfriend replies, while contemplating the "odd angle" of his erection: "You were jolly here-comes-Charlie, you know!" It's not until the story moves from SW1 to the Dordogne – with an unlikely new plot-twist involving a French resistance hero – that the dialogue mercifully lapses into French.

Hearing Voices by A.N. Wilson (Mandarin, £6.99) Set in Sixties New York, Birmingham and Norfolk, the fourth volume in A.N. Wilson's *Lampitt Chronicles* (the fifth in the series is out this month in hardback) finds the English Catholic intelligentsia ready to do battle with the Pill. Snobbish Jesuit priests, Friar Tucks with cheesy feet, and Fragrant Marys indulge in elegant doctrinal debates, comic sexual liaisons and infrequent trips to "Marce". The novel's plot is less memorable than its nightmarish depiction of smug fogeydom in Brummie. Wilson always writes impeccably about people you wouldn't cross the road for.

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Postcards from the hedge

David Cohen talks to three people who bought the landscape of their dreams

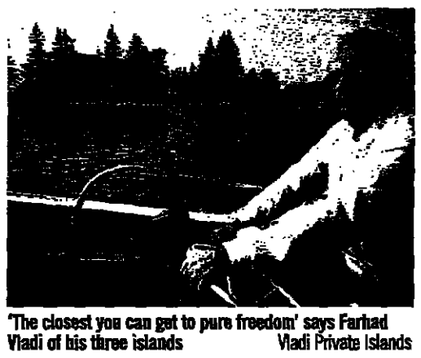
Relaxing for Jim McAllister means hard labour at his 350-acre estate on the Surrey Downs — Photograph: Edward Sykes

When it comes to owning our own patch of green, most of us settle for a pot plant or a hedge. But not Margaret Gordon. She withdrew her savings of £5,500 and bought a Hampshire meadow. What was in it? "Nothing. Just a lot of grass," she laughs. "One and a half acres of it. I wanted fresh air, a space to dream and be creative and to see the sky again. It was my bid for freedom." Gordon, 43, is a management consultant from Southampton who earns £25,000 a year advising companies on stress management. When it came to alleviating her own stress, however, it was not a room with a view she sought, but a view with room, and plenty of it; a place to put her feet up and simply watch the grass grow. "The vista from my field is absolutely stunning," she says. "I look out over a river valley and can see 40 miles to the South Downs, the Solent and all the way to the Isle of Wight."

Gordon's hunt for a field of dreams began two years ago when she discovered that a friend shared the same yearning. The land agents they approached could only offer them expensive pony paddocks, but they persisted with their search and stumbled across a farmer selling 25 acres of arable land. They persuaded him to subdivide and bought three acres, which they halved between them. Now she drives to her meadow every weekend and often pops over on the way home from work to watch the sun set. "I love the peace and quiet, the sound of the wind in the trees, the birds, the thrill of being nowhere exactly. I don't have to insure it or fret that someone will steal or break it. Apart from arranging to give it a 'hay-cut' once a year, it's the ultimate worry-free possession," she enthuses.

Surprisingly, it is not difficult for ordinary individuals with a small amount of spare cash to buy a piece of the countryside, be it a field, a river or a forest. There are currently more than 30 "Forests for Sale" throughout the UK on the books of specialist chartered surveyors like Bidwells and Cleggs, with price-tags ranging from £7,000 to £2.75 million. And according to Raymond Henderson of Bidwells, more and more city folk are becoming hip to the fact that it's affordable and very straightforward to purchase their own private woodland.

Jim McAllister, 51, the chairman of a property investment company, who lives in Chiswick, west London, bought his forest, near Guildford, 10 years ago. "I grew up on the edge of a forest in Scotland so I was used to running wild and having hills and trees around me," he says. "When I came to live in London, I used to drive to the Surrey Downs with my family every weekend and cycle through the woodland. One day I saw a For Sale sign at the entrance to my favourite forest. It was a magical place. But when I called the agent, it had already gone to someone else. I was bitterly disappointed. Then as luck had it, the sale fell through, they re-tendered and my offer was accepted."



'The closest you can get to pure freedom' says Farhad Vladi of his three islands — Vladi Private Islands

McAllister's forest stretches across 350 acres and cost in the region of £300,000. It has 23 varieties of trees, some more than 500 years old, including Scots pine and Douglas firs, as well as 10 kilometres of track and a thriving wildlife population of deer, foxes, hawks, owls, rabbits, squirrels, grass snakes, adders, pheasants and badgers.

"I often work from 6am to midnight in my business, so by the end of the week I can't wait to get down here and relax," he says. Relaxing to McAllister means hard physical labour in the woods, building up a sweat before lunch, at which time friends might arrive for a barbecue. "It's calming to be in a forest," he says. "When one is successful in business, it is easy to become over-inflated and lose perspective. Being in my forest brings me down to size. I walk amongst trees that have been here for hundreds of years and I realise that I'm not so significant, that I am only here for a relatively short time."

But what began as a casual interest has become his passion. McAllister has completed forestry courses and learnt to cut down trees and maintain habitats. His four children and their friends muck in as well. To maintain a forest costs money, and McAllister employs foresters to help him, but how much you spend is entirely up to you. "To get to know your forest and the animals that live in it is fascinating. You can't compare that kind of intimate knowledge with going for a stroll in the country. It's awe-inspiring, magical. My favourite time is first thing in the morning, walking down a track and seeing a fox or a deer silhouetted against the early morning rising sun and totally unaware of my presence."

But if it's space and freedom you're after, why stop at a forest? Why not buy the ultimate – an island? Or are they the preserve of the mega-rich?

Farhad Vladi, a 51-year-old Canadian, attributes his love of islands to a boyhood romance that never wore off: "I read Robinson Crusoe when I was far too young and have been smitten with island fever ever since," he says. "When I was an economics student, I read about an island for sale that was part of the Seychelles group and set off to buy it. But when I got there I discovered they were asking $300,000, which I could not afford. So I did the next best thing. I found a buyer and used the finder's fee to build up my own capital so that one day I could buy my own island."

Thirty years later, having acted as agent in the sale of more than 500 islands to private individuals, Vladi has three islands to call his own: Sleepy Cove off the coast of Canada; Galloo Island in the US and a 2,000-acre island with sheep off the coast of New Zealand. He won't divulge price, but insists that you don't have to be film star-rich to buy an island. "In Canada, Scotland and Finland, you can pick up an island for £25,000, or £200,000 buys a first-class island with house, beaches, anchorage, proximity to mainland, nice elevations, a lake and a river." Indeed, this summer, 19 islands off Scotland's west coast are under the hammer, some with an asking price of no more than a medium-sized house in London.

Of course, getting to your island can cost a packet. Vladi must fly to the nearest city, drive to the nearest port and then take a small boat to his jetty. But cost aside, aren't island owners quite different to the kind of people that buy fields or forests? "Sure, there are crazy guys who buy islands because they want to rule like ego-maniacs over their kingdom, or because they are social misfits, but I am not like that," declares Vladi. "I use my islands to recharge my batteries just like anyone else. I just get to do it in perfect surroundings, encircled on all sides by blue sea, with no neighbours to bicker with and no government to tell me what to do. It's the closest you can get on earth to pure freedom. And what could be more thrilling than that?"

Return of the grouse on the Welsh hills of Pale Moor

By Michael Prestage

What happened in Wales on the Glorious 12th? Not a great deal, and certainly nothing much at Pale Moor in North Wales. At the start of the grouse-shooting season, gamekeeper Craig Jones listened in vain for the sound of grouse – and other birds. All that could be seen were crows circling beyond the range of the shotgun he carried.

"The air should be alive with birdsong, including the rapid-fire call of grouse," he said. "But listen, there's complete silence."

Yet an unusual alliance of conservationists and field sports enthusiasts is working on a five-year project to re-introduce the red grouse across thousands of acres of heather moorland in Wales. Other moorland species, such as the black grouse, golden plover and lapwing, will also benefit if the collaboration between the Countryside Council for Wales, the Game Conservancy Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is successful.

And the showpiece for the newly-formed Welsh Grouse Project is the 8,000-acre Pale Moor, near Bala, Gwynedd. Here it is hoped that grouse will survive if moorland is properly managed.

Paradoxically, if the sound of shotguns are again heard on Welsh moors the project will have been a success. For the money raised from the bird's popularity as a quarry for shooting will help underwrite the conservation work.

Years of neglect have taken their toll at Pale Moor: the heather has been allowed to grow without regular burning and is now the wrong height for many bird species; the population of predators has gone unchecked; and there are too many sheep being grazed.

Controlling predators is a priority. A trap set high on the moor contains the latest batch of crows to fall prey to the new gamekeeper and they will be humanely dispatched, as will the foxes that come within sight of his gun.

A quarter of a century ago Wales had a higher density of red grouse than Scotland, but predation coupled with overgrazing and disease has reduced the population to the point of extinction. There are believed to be fewer than 1,000 breeding pairs left. Mr Jones has a faded black-and-white picture from the turn of the century that shows 12 gamekeepers on the Pale Moor preparing to set out to organise a day's shoot for the landowner and his guests.

A walk across the moor reveals 50-year-old shooting butts now falling into disrepair where a dozen or more guns could be comfortably accommodated. Winston Churchill used to shoot here and locals can remember 40 brace being taken in a day. Before Mr Jones's recent arrival, it was 20 years since the last gamekeeper was employed here.

"This is one of Wales's last wildernesses," Mr Jones explained. "When it goes, some of the last of the ground nesting birds in the country go with it. It has to be managed to survive. For example, there is only one pair of curlew on 4,500 acres."

His sense of commitment is shared by Ian Lindsay, co-ordinator of the Welsh Grouse Project. "We hope to show that the objectives of sporting management, conservation and upland farming need not be incompatible," Mr Lindsay said. "It is all a question of balance. Over the last 40 years the balance has swung in favour of agriculture."

Red Grouse: waiting to be re-introduced to Pale Moor — Photograph: Planet Earth

He explained there are now no large, formal grouse shoots in Wales and it is unlikely they would ever return. Yet they hope to raise grouse numbers to a level where field-sports enthusiasts can enjoy their sport.

"In Scotland, continued investment in keepers and moorland management has maintained viable grouse populations," said Mr Lindsay. "In Wales, this tradition has, with very few exceptions, been lost, resulting in a downward spiral of fewer grouse, fewer keepers and less management. Hand-in-hand with this has been the decline in the quality of heather upland."

The Welsh Grouse Project will study grouse numbers and research into specific problems, such as bracken, which is overrunning the heather moorlands. Blood tests on grouse shot in the Berwyn Mountains, close to the Pale Moor, showed high levels of louping-ill, one of the two major illnesses affecting the birds. It can cause 80 per cent mortality in chicks and research on a cure is under way.

"If all goes well there will be a sufficient population of grouse built up in five years," said Craig Jones. "That is the challenge for me. What makes it all the more rewarding is that I am helping restore a moor that is an asset for Wales."

DUFF HART-DAVIS

Cranks taken in by pranks? That is how many people view the faithful few who carry out research into crop circles; but if you spend a day in the company of a dedicated practitioner such as Lucy Pringle, you can hardly emerge with scepticism intact.

In her estimation, this has been a bumper season for crop formations. It started late, because the crops themselves were late after the cold spring; but it flowered into a splendid harvest as amazing shapes appeared in wheat and barley across the chalk downlands of Wiltshire, Hampshire and Berkshire, with outliers as far afield as Somerset and Nottingham.

Some of them, certainly, were man-made. There was no secret, for instance, about the twin circles joined by a bar – a kind of dumb-bell – which manifested themselves on the farm belonging to Tim and Polly Carson near Alton Barnes. These were laid out one night by two young Germans, whose addiction to the creation of formations is such that, with the agreement of the farmers, they come over every summer to try some new design.

Yet in Lucy's view many formations derive from natural causes. One of this year's most remarkable was the huge pattern close to Stonehenge which appeared early in the evening of 7 July. The pilot of a light aircraft coming up from Exeter flew over the field as he was starting his descent into Thruxton, some five minutes away. At that moment the wheat was unblemished. When he returned within half an hour, the corn below him was imprinted with an astonishing array.

Experts described the formation as a Julia set, or fractal image (one which can be divided *ad infinitum*): several dozen circles of swept-down corn had appeared in a lazy curve reminiscent of a lizard seen from above. The circles graduated in diameter from a couple of feet at the tail to 15 yards at the head, and the whole layout was 900 feet long by 500 wide. As Lucy remarked, it was inconceivable that humans could have made it unobserved, and in fewer than 30 minutes.

The same applied still more emphatically to an even bigger formation which appeared at the foot of Windmill Hill, near the village of Yatesbury, on the night of 1 August. This was another fractal image, but a triple one, with three lizard-like curves of circles swinging into a single head, the whole more than 1,000 feet across.

When Lucy first visited this site, two days later, the swept-down corn had "a marvellous bounce to it" – the sure sign (in her view) of a formation made by natural forces. In man-made circles the crop is crushed and flattened, but in others it is left fluffed up in an even blanket six or eight inches off the earth. The destructive agent appears to be a sudden burst of energy which softens the stalks of the corn just above the soil.

When I visited the site, I was immediately struck by the fact that from ground level, in a field set on only the gentlest slope, it was impossible to see the whole formation at once, or to get any idea of its shape. Only when we flew over could I appreciate that the whole was laid out with astonishing elegance and precision.

A veteran of many summers' research, Lucy is cautious with explanations. "Everyone thinks up the wildest ideas," she says. "For example that the triple Julia was somehow created by a Ministry of Defence satellite operating bomb-disposal equipment." She mentions ley lines, and believes that Windmill Hill, Silbury Hill and the like are "power-packed places".

She herself believes that natural formations are caused by abrupt discharges of energy, and she can report many curious happenings. Last year, when two labradors entered a circle, they ran amok and attacked the nearest human; outside the formation again, they reverted to their normal sloppy selves. This time, several people who went into the Stonehenge formation felt extremely ill, and one man – a molecular biologist, used to working with radiation – staggered out claiming that he had been irradiated. Over the next few days the bodies of visitors passing through seemed to drain off the energy, but grains of wheat still carried a high charge.

Flying low along the line of the Ridgeway – the ancient track that follows the top of the Downs – we came eyeball-to-eyeball with the Uffington White Horse, with Iron Age hill forts, with prehistoric burial mounds. Out in the plain to the south the megaliths of Avebury and Stonehenge sentinel. Could it be that the forces which shape crop formations today are the same as those which made primitive people raise their monuments in this wide-open landscape?

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Crystal tips from Clapham Junction

Sally Williams meets a star of the rocks world

Noël Bohorquez likes crystals. She keeps them by her bed, next to the loo, and scattered among the geraniums and pink plastic flamingos in her grotto-like garden near Clapham Junction. "They are so happy outdoors," she coos, "so bright. I can just feel it. Happy, clear, bright stones." Noël takes them on holiday ("I ask who wants to come with me. Some will and some won't"), tends them ("it's like having hundreds of children") and strings them on thread to make lots of money.

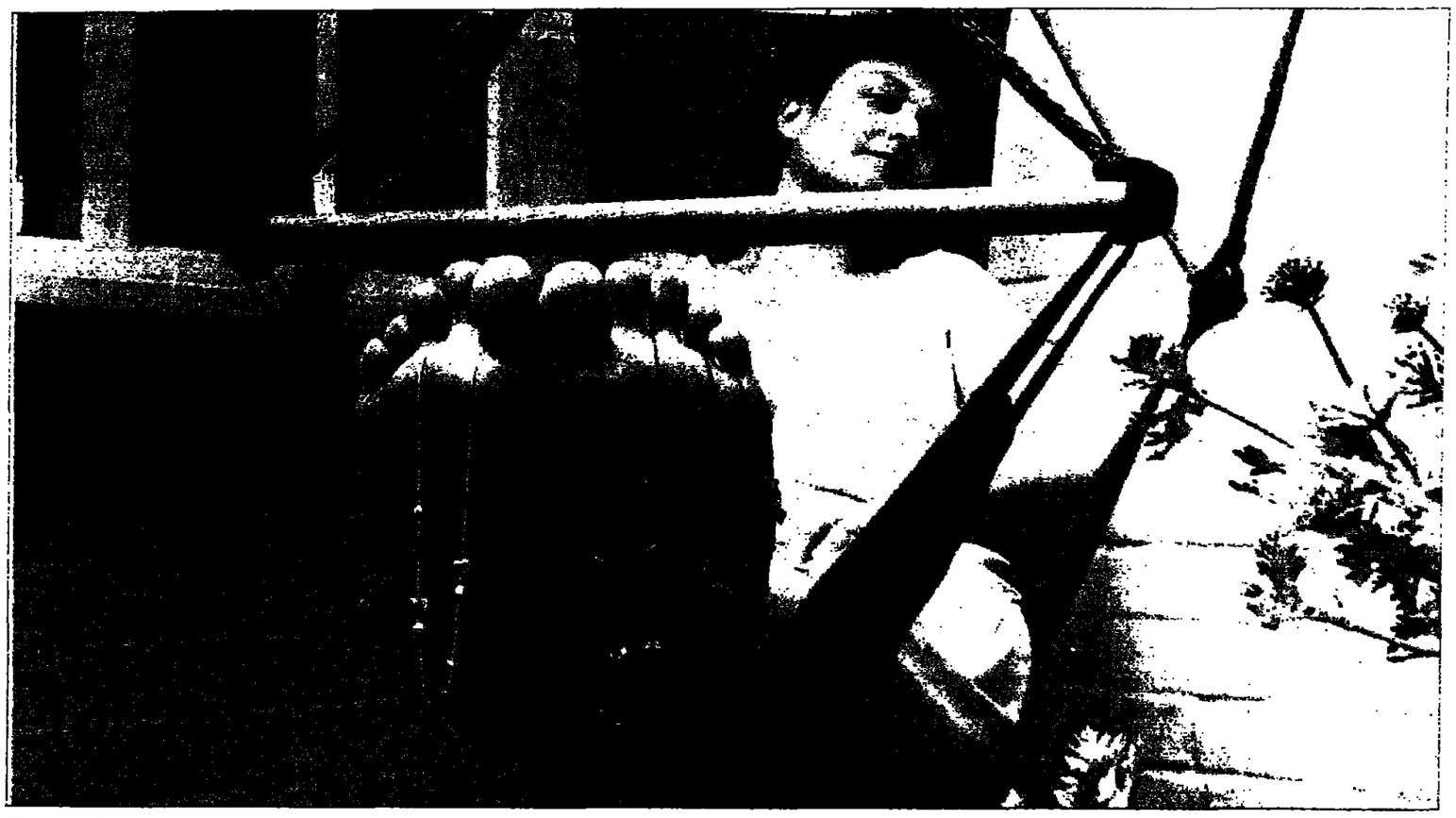
Ally Capellino, Christian Lacroix, *Vogue*, French *Marie Claire*, John Rocha and Agnès B have all been fans of Noël's necklaces. More than 300 shops nationwide sell her work. She has an agent in Canada and outlets in the States, and sells by mail order in Japan. The best-selling necklace is one she calls Chakras: small chips of garnet, cornelian, citrine, peridot, sodalite and amethyst, strung on a 16-inch linen thread, with a wooden bead clasp. Simple stones, simple colours, and a necklace that looks good with a little black dress or a T-shirt, and is claimed to energise your spleen, awaken your solar plexus, purify your ideas and generally balance your body and your life. Not bad for £8.

"I have a philosophy to all my work," says Noël, 34, in her blissed-out Miami Beach drawl – though Noël's family moved to London from Florida 21 years ago, her vowels are still drawn-out and she still uses adjectives such as "freaky", "buzzy" and "wild". "I have to personally love each piece I produce. If not, I cannot sell it." But love alone won't root your pineal gland, so Noël has concocted her own brand of spiritualism – a pick 'n' mix of crystal therapy, colour therapy, homeopathy, Hinduism, Buddhism, paganism, Christianity and Feng Shui, which she applies to the strings of crystal promising that if you wear them "you will look good and feel good too."

"Chakras are centres of spinning energy," says Noël. "We have seven of them in our bodies and each one reacts to different colours and crystals. I have chosen each crystal – from a wholesaler in this country, but originating in South Africa – to enhance each energy point."

The Water Necklace "encourages an absorbing aura of mystery to stir the vivid imagination"; The Air Necklace "enables you to balance the pros and cons of everything and everyone around us", and so on. Each necklace comes with a hand-painted card pointing out the necklace's benefits and carrying a personal message from Noël – "May you find joy and love", etc. She has 13 different necklace lines ranging in price from £8 to £28, but does not describe herself as a jewellery maker.

"People say, why don't you do earrings and bracelets? But I'm not into all that. Crystals come first and the jewellery second. Then, there's ice-cream. I'm really into making ice-cream at the moment," giggles Noël. This hippie-trippy, isn't-life-a-gas attitude is all very charming, but doesn't really explain her success.



Blissed-out: Noël Bohorquez has concocted her own brand of spiritualism. She chooses crystals for her necklaces 'to enhance each energy point'

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Lots of people string crystals, but none is as successful as Noël. "She is extremely good at marketing," says her agent, John Decosta. "The necklaces are well made, they look good, and they come with a story. The hand-painted card is a nice touch." He goes on: "She has pitched herself to appeal to two different camps – those who buy them as a fashion accessory, and those who buy them for crystal healing."

In fact, I-meditate-with-the-trees-and-take-my-energy-from-the-sun Noël worked for many years as a corporate packaging designer: "meetings, black Joseph suits, briefcase – all really proper stuff". About eight years ago she was made redundant, started out making greetings cards, then progressed to laminated necklaces made from prayer cards, and a double-page spread in *Vogue*. "I was at a friend's house. Some of my laminated necklaces fell out of my bag. This other woman grabbed them and said, 'can you make me seven of these by Friday?'" The woman was Lucinda Chambers, fashion editor of *Vogue*.

The crystal necklaces were born from an interest in crystals and a meaningful encounter with an ancient Tibetan necklace at Sotheby's. "It was made from thread and had mementoes tied to it: fabric from a dress, corn from a good crop, a stone from a good journey. I thought it was amazing. It really connected, with me and crystals. I thought, of course, they would be so much happier on thread than on metal."

Noël may put her success down to divine destiny: "Ever since I made the decision to be creative, and to follow things I like doing, I have had a charmed life." Others see it more as canny marketing. "Image is so important if you are going to sell anything today," says Decosta. "The Japanese, for example, really go for personality, so when Noël sells her stuff there, she includes a kooky photo of her with flowers on her face and Björk-like buns on her head." (*The Independent* was treated to a more sober Noël: on the day we met, her hair was loose, shorts were roomy and face was floral-free).

Future plans include experimenting with crystals in cement for gardens, painting more stars on the concrete floor of her new house, and trying to realise her dream. "My fantasy," she says, "is to be part of a community of people working in a very spiritual way close to nature." Easy, I say, join the New Age Travellers, live in a teepee, set up a stall at the Glastonbury Festival. "I couldn't live like that," she replies. "Don't get me wrong, travellers are wonderful people; but why do they have to be so dirty? Besides," she adds, "I like to Hoover my garden."

For a list of stockists contact Tales from the Earth, 0171-730 4990

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Crystals: quartz is for healing; amethyst for psychic balance; rose quartz for love; moonstone for intuition; citrine for confidence, etc. Each star sign has a corresponding crystal, although establishing which one is not easy. Mysteries: 0171-240 3688.
Acu-Slim earrings: gold-plated magnetic earrings that help you shed excess pounds, the makers say, because they sit on pressure points on the ear lobe to stifle hunger. Saleslink: 0181-361 2099.
Symbolic pendants: slogans such as Love, Calm, Confidence are said to transfer these properties to the wearer. Unlike crystals, these must be "charged up" – possibly by meditation.

bazaar

Checkout George & Davis Ice-Cream Parlour, Little Clarendon St, Oxford

What is it? A shrine to the humble cow. Andy Warhol at the dairy is the description that comes to mind when you walk into this café. The pictures on the walls are of psychedelic cows grazing on whitewashed brick walls

What can I buy? Ice-cream and lots of it. Around 200 litres of the dieter's downfall are made on the premises each day. Jump the queue by ordering via e-mail. You get a free scoop if you are the first person to correctly answer the weekly trivia question.

The People's Choice The 30 or so signatures on the People's Choice petition are added up each month and if you're lucky your dream ice-cream flavour will be obligingly produced. The current winner is Mars Mania, stuffed with chunky chips of Mars bars.

The Ice-Cream War Round two of the local ice-cream war is just getting under way in Oxford as Häagen-Dazs steps into the ring for the second time. The first battle was won by G&Ds after the two cafés set up at around the same time. G&Ds triumphed by creating a Bailey's ice-cream a couple of years before Häagen-Dazs, and the People's Choice came out smiling when Häagen-Dazs was forced to close down last year. The battle recommences when a new Häagen-Dazs café opens in the city centre later this summer.

Good thing

Jordan Amigo toothbrush, £1.99

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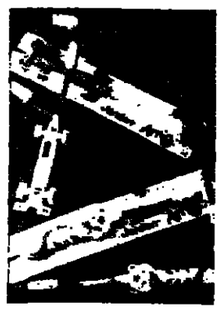

Mad thing

Beastlies soap, £1.99

Pure vegetable glycerin soap, yes, but buried inside like a *Jurassic Park* souvenir lies the suspended body of a "beastly toy". A whole variety of clean-living creepy-crawlies have taken up residence inside this range of soaps, but be warned: the cleaner you get the more limbs you get protruding through the surface, so watch out for an impromptu bug-scrub.

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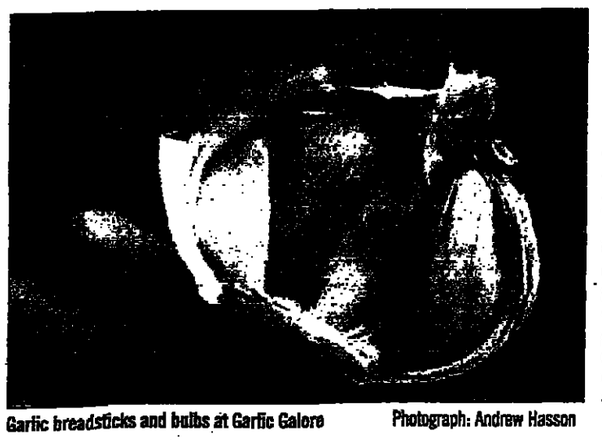
Turn on the magic bulb

Tim Stein meets garlic's best public-relations man

Peter Josling loves garlic. In fact he's positively fanatical about it. He eats it, drinks it, smells it and practically sleeps with it. Last year he opened a small shop on the pier at Hastings so that he could sell the stuff. Garlic Galore is, he claims, Europe's first garlic shop and his stock includes Garlic and Honey ice-cream (£1 a tub), Garlic nail-hardener, £3.95; Garlic shampoo, £5.99 (unscented of course); garlic bubble-gum, 20p; and his best-seller, garlic mustard, from 50p – £1.90 a jar. Then of course there are the bulbs themselves. You can treat yourself to a string of Spanish or Mexican garlic for £5.25, and later, when the season starts, English and American bulbs.

A career in medical publishing in the mid-eighties spawned Peter's passion. "We published some of the first evidence showing the effects of garlic on coronary heart disease – establishing its ability to reduce blood pressure, and to reduce the cholesterol levels in the blood as well as improving circulation to the fingers, eyes and toes. So I was encouraged to set up an information service, expounding garlic's many wonderful attributes – a far cry from Dr Johnson's oft-quoted remark that garlic's only property was its capacity to cause "an ill wind from behind".



Garlic breadsticks and bulbs at Garlic Galore

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

Peter was inundated with calls from people wanting to visit him to talk about the potent stuff. "People really wanted to discuss what they could do with it," says the amiable chemist turned garlic-guru. The decision to open a shop was made when he learned that there were a dozen or so garlic shops in Gilroy, California (now home to a hugely popular annual Garlic Festival).

Fifty per cent of his customers love the idea of garlic. And the other fifty per cent? "Oh, they would run a mile," he laughs. And it is the education of this fifty per cent which has become his mission. Peter's passion, it seems, has caught on. Today sees the start of the annual Isle of Wight Garlic Festival, a celebration of the golden clove which began in 1985.

Thanks to the support of Newchurch-based Mersley Farm, the UK's only commercial garlic grower (they produce nearly 100 tonnes of garlic a year solely for the UK market), you'll be able to catch more than a whiff of the magical bulb. For two whole days you can manoeuvre your taste buds around a pungent variety of garlic from Argentina, Morocco or China, ward off a few stray vampires, or just get drunk on garlic beer – beer brewed specially by the Swedish Olsen brothers from the Garlic & Shots restaurant in London. And whether you take its benefits with a pinch of salt or not, you can always marvel at the fact that raw garlic expenditure in this country is worth about £8.4 million a year.

Garlic Galore, The Pier, Hastings, T34 1LA; Garlic Information Centre Tel: 01424-892440; Email: garlic@mistral.co.uk; Internet: http://www.mistral.co.uk/garlic
1996 Isle of Wight Garlic Festival takes place today and tomorrow at Fighting Cocks Crossroad, A3056 Newport - Sandown, Newchurch Parish, Isle of Wight. Contact Island Partners Ltd: 01983-85411.

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Blinded by the light

Are net curtains a sad necessity? Lesley Gillilan looks for the alternatives

Michael Jones in his apartment in London's East End: "I feel trapped behind blinds or curtains". Below: Sheer madness, Lord Howard de Walden insists on them. Photograph: Philip Meach

Net curtains may be to window-wear what Crimplene two-pieces are to fashion, but John Lewis plc, I am told, shifts "many thousands of metres" of the stuff every week. At least half of Britain's population, it seems, peers at the outside world through a mist of diaphanous polyester.

And it's not just suburban folk who think an unveiled window is a mite indecent. A couple of months ago, Lord Howard de Walden hoisted sheer curtains a few steps up the social ladder by insisting on their use. The tenants of his central London estate – which includes the Georgian terraces of Wimpole Street and Harley Street – are now compelled to hang nets. One reason, according to his edict, is to "protect the estate's elegant residential character".

To protect one's inner sanctum from passing Nosey Parkers, yes. To shield your expensive hi-fi equipment from the eyes of snooping thieves, perhaps. But elegant? Some of his tenants must be struggling with their aesthetic consciences and wondering how on earth they are supposed to protect their street cred.

They can always move east, to a net-free zone such as 66 St John's Street, Clerkenwell, where developer Ivory Gate is poised to launch the first of 14 luxury loft apartments, overlooking the gardens of Charterhouse. "We intend to reserve an absolute right to prescribe what people put up in their windows," says spokesperson Bunny Bridges. "The building is uncompromisingly modern and we don't want any ruched or net curtains cluttering up the clean uniformity of the exterior."

Indeed, according to image consultant, Stephen Bayley, the "melancholy net" is not only a dirt trap and an anathema to modernism but is also "certain evidence of the petit-bourgeois sensibility. The net curtain offers a sheen of sophistication as if its very translucence was a social filter. The entirely understandable need to moderate light without excluding it is far better achieved with elegant Roman blinds or robust wooden Venetians."

Given that you have a choice – and that you are not living under a regime of curtain Fascism – how else do you achieve the tricky balance between light and shade, privacy and uninterrupted views, security and sartorial credibility?

Design consultant, Patricia Howard suggests wooden Venetians – "of a very high quality; there's an awful lot of tat around" – or hand-stitched roller blinds in sheer silk, fine muslin or organza. "Metal Venetians have had it. They're so very Eighties," she said. "And vertical ones are an abomination."

S&L Blinds in Stoke Newington, London suggest made-to-measure Silhouette "voiles". This new Belgian Product is made of two layers of fine, net-like linen, interwoven with slats of wood. "They look like Venetians and tilt like Venetians," says S&L's Steve Moss, "but they provide both the transparency and the obscurity of a net curtain and roll up into a box like a roller blind." He adds that they are also one of the most expensive blinds on the market, averaging around £220 per window.

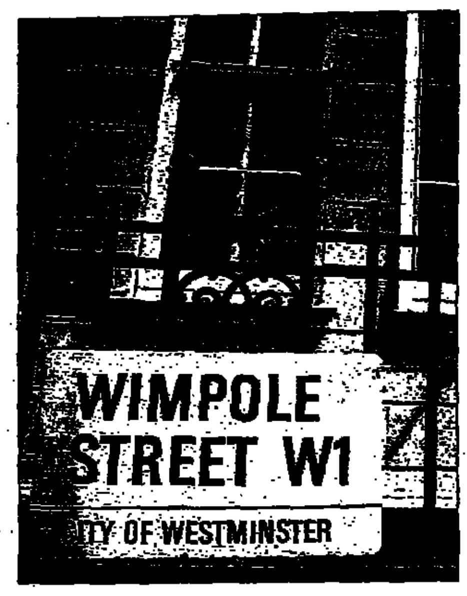
A small price to pay, compared to adjustable louvred, interior shutters which, according to supplier Kerry Retallack of The House of Shutters, "look gorgeous", but cost anything from £150 (for a small bathroom window) to £900 (for a bay with 16 panels). Custom-made in America, they are available in hard wood or pine and can be plain, stained, painted or colour washed to blend in with any interior decor.

Architect Nico Rensch of Architeam is a roller-blind man and he offers a nifty alternative to the standard pull-down variety. He simply turns them upside down. Roll-up blinds, he points out, offer privacy without cutting out all the light – though you do lose the lower half of your view. Custom-made roll-ups are available from Tidmarsh & Sons but, says Nico, they are still not perfect. "The stupid thing about most curtains and blinds is that they offer only two options – open or closed," he says. "Naff as they are, there is no really satisfactory alternative to nets."

In defence of nets, Evelyn Strouts of John Lewis insists that some of their customers do think of sheers as a fashion item. The latest thing, she says, is bright, coloured voiles – in trendy lime green, blue, orange and yellow. Wisps of cotton-mix muslin, draped informally on curtain poles, is another popular option. "It is essential that you use soft nets with a good drape," says Evelyn. Having looked at the range, I would eschew all man-made fibres and go for the transparent Indian cottons.

But as architect Michael Jones discovered, liberating your windows from the tyranny of curtains is not that easy. When he bought a ground floor apartment in a converted East End factory building called Pattern House, one of the main attractions was a wall of street-facing, industrial windows. He hung Venetians in the bedroom ("for obvious modesty reasons") but he didn't want to compromise either the light or the raw beauty of his galvanised-steel glazing bars. So he left the rest undressed. "I feel trapped behind blinds or curtains," he says. "I like to be able to see out because the view is full of life and it makes me feel part of the city. The down-side is that people can see in, but I don't mind being on display. I haven't got anything to hide."

His friends, however, felt uncomfortable about the arrangement. "I think they were worried about security rather than privacy. And I've finally given in to the pressure." He doesn't think he'll actually use them, but a set of plain metallic Venetian blinds have been ordered. Michael considered sheer cotton roller blinds, but nets were not an option. Pattern House is another Clerkenwell development that doesn't allow them – even if they are fashionably lime green.



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The Classified Gardening Section appears on page 20.

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Six of the best menswear in white

Stylist: Charlie Harrington. Photographer: Tony Buckingham

1 Jigsaw Menswear drawstring parka, £97. Something for Liam Gallagher fans. A waterproof parka small enough to be stuffed into a pocket. Jigsaw Menswear, 9-10 Floral Street, London WC2; 22 Market Street, Cambridge; 61 Buchanan Street, Glasgow and branches nationwide. Stockist enquiries, 0171-240 5651.

2 French Connection jeans, £48. White jeans are probably the most sensible option for white trousers. They will endure beyond the fads of different trouser cuts. From branches of French Connection nationwide. Stockist enquiries, 0171-580 2507.

3 Armand Basi towelling top, £60. This round-necked, long-sleeved top is extremely comfortable, though, those not accustomed to today's outlandish fabrics may find the idea of wearing something resembling a nappy a bit bizarre. From Armand Basi, 12 Floral Street, London WC2; Wardrobe, Deansgate, Manchester and Nichols, Great Western Arcade, Birmingham. Stockist enquiries, 0171-278 4843.

4 Sally Gissing belt, £49. Crocodile-print white patent belt with a silver buckle. For smoothies eager to slip into that head-to-toe white, Seventies-style suit. From Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Stockist enquiries, 0171-267 9303.

5 Calvin Klein pants, £17.95. These now classic boxer shorts are featured mainly as a warning to men: if you're going to wear white, worry about the shade of your underwear. Women have to every day. From Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 and branches of House of Fraser nationwide.

6 Jones the Bootmaker white flat-fronted loafers, £69.99. A clean, neat look, that is a refreshing break from built-up soles and flashy logos. Jones the Bootmaker nationwide. Stockist enquiries, 01323 649408.

The thing about... personal stationery

Which act has caused the biggest collective sigh of frustration recently? The answer is yet another re-organisation of area telephone dialling codes. The human animal dislikes change at the best of times, but this seemingly deliberate act is guaranteed to cause wailing and gnashing of teeth. All those change-of-number notification cards; the extra digits in your Filofax; the agony of working out how to re-programme the phone.

Still, some will be smiling gamely at the silver lining as the cloud descends: the stationers. The last time this happened there was some suspicion, especially in London, where line-renters had already been subject to one change, that someone somewhere was getting kick-backs from the printers of letterheads: that suspicion will become conviction now.

One can understand that companies might rely on a pristine letterhead. The mystery is why individuals persist in laying out extortionate amounts for boxes of the stuff. The answer, of course, is that once you've started you can't stop: the personality type that needs a perfect letterhead in the first place can never be satisfied with ball-point-written phone numbers.

So what does your bought letterhead say about you? First of all, it suggests a certain illiteracy where computers are concerned. Now that most households have access to a computer, even if it is the one bought with supermarket tokens for a grandchild's school, it would be easy enough to change your letterhead at will. But a laser print is often not enough. We've all seen intolerable snobs run their thumbnails over invitations and sneer if they're not embossed. They do it with addresses, too. If you mind about that sort of thing, get help.

Consider help, also, if you have a plastic bag full of little gold stick-ons. It's a generally acknowledged rule among those who receive hate mail that the most vituperative, unless it's anonymous, generally comes with one of these labels attached.

Typefaces, also, say more about the chooser than they would like. Respectable companies, after all, are using graphologists in their recruitment processes these days. Beware of curly script learnt in American handwriting classes, actually known as English; people who have this tend to cosiness and sentimentality. Lovers of Gothic are startlingly prone to competitive pedantry. Umbra, that 3-D-effect shadow script, suggests an ego out of control. The Art Deco of Broadway is popular with advertising wannabes. You're probably best off with plain Roman. It may denote conservatism or indeed lack of imagination, but at least no one will spot your own particular brand of insanity.

Serena Mackesy

In last week's column, Tesco's new Clubcard Plus became "Cabinet Plus". Apologies to the store and any confused readers.

Tel: 0171 293 2222 **classified • personal** Fax: 0171 293 2505

Independent Hearts

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number, c/o The *Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

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Professional people often don't meet their ideal partner in their current social circle. That's where Zygosis can help. We are highly selective, operate nationally, are confidential, discreet and produce results. We look forward to your call.
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The cost for your advertisement, published in the first available editions of the Saturday "Weekend" and Sunday "Real Life" sections is just £5.00 per line including V.A.T. (Box No is an additional £10.00, please cross here if you do not require a Box No ☐).

Simply write your advertisement in the spaces below and fill in the coupon - Minimum 2 lines.
(N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

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This offer is only open to private advertisers. Trade enquiries are welcome on the above telephone number. *NRS Jan - June '95

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UK'S BEST singles magazine. Free details + Bargain Offer. PERSON TO PERSON (Dept ND). P.O. Box 4, Goring-On-Thames, RG8 9DN.

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HERTS & ESSEX. Sparkling parties, & candlelit dinners. Call Eleanor for a friendly chat/brochure. ACROSS THE ROOM. Tel: 01277 352742.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE passion in your life? Nice normal man, N/S, GSOH, WLTM nice normal woman for discreet liaisons. London based but happy to travel. All letters answered. Box No I:1444.

LOVELY SINGLE LADY, 37, dark blonde, 5' 7", solvent, wicked SOH, fun, seeks well heeled clever man, for nest building, family orientated. Photo? Midlands / North West / Travel? Box No I:1464.

NOTICE TO READERS

The Independent cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will.

When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

Services

TAROT READING - SHANTO will be visiting England (London and G'bury) Aug 23-Sept 3. Tel:01726 6363426.

60, JUST RETIRED, small, warm, active woman, with many interests. WLTM fit N/S man to share walking, music & holidays. Box No I:1479.

MALE, 53, WELL-BUILT, forceful, caring, occassional wit and culture, WLTM lady requiring a firm hand. Photo appreciated. London/Essex/Kent. Box No I:1486.

GIRLS, DO YOU FANCY getting into hot water? Come and spa with appreciative but shy late 20's male who seeks cerebral compatibility. SW area. Box No I:1487.

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE 54, slim, dark hair, 5'6", articulate, educated, independent, likes travel, radio 4, cinema, music, literature, seeks like minded male companion. Exeter. Box No I:1480.

TALL, DARK, ENLIGHTENED MALE, 42, successful, experienced, dry sense of humour, seeks slim, intelligent female, 20's/30's, for passionate affair. London/south. Box No I:1462.

Newspaper Publishing plc requests that Commercial Organisations do not send material to our Private Advertisers

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Kim and Amanda, who met through INDEPENDENT HEARTS, and who are to be married on 18th August 1996.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

HAPPY, OPTIMISTIC, PROFESSIONAL, weatherbeaten, single, free-spirited male, 34, surrey, seeks curious, articulate, sensitive female for adventures on new horizons. Box No I:1461.

LOVELY SINGLE LADY, 37, dark blonde, 5' 7", solvent, wicked SOH, fun, seeks well heeled clever man, for nest building, family orientated. Photo? Midlands / North West Travel?

SLIM, FIT MAN, 44, serious gardener, music lover, seeks woman for garden visits and long walks. Avon / South West. Box No I:1469.

M1 WLTM M2. M1: Writer director, 48, loves nature, travel, all arts especially theatre. M2: N'S, GSOH. NW Yorks. Box No I:1463.

ATTRACTIVE, SPIRITED GAL, 38, helpless romantic with SOH, WLTM interesting male Box No I:1468.

WITTY, PRETTY WOMAN, seeks single man who is kind, honest and fun, (50-65). Box No I:1465.

GOOD COOK, GOOD ARTIST, good looking man, 38, seeks friendship with lady. I love snowdrops, sincerity and Sibelius. Leicester. Box No I:1466.

JOLLY ART DEALER, of North West London, separated, solvent, sociable and sincere seeks interesting 30 s lady. Box No I:1450.

BLACK WRITER 25 6'4" slim seeks arty tall attractive ladies with SOH for that special thing. Photo. Box No I:1481.

ATTRACT. M 45 LOOKS yngr. Natural caring spiritual N'S slim. Wlsm slim F U43 Ldn ALA. Box No I:1478.

AMERICAN RUSSIAN LADY, lawyer, 39, intense and varied cultural interests, would like to meet a gentleman with a sense of humour. Box No I:1460.

AMIABLE M, VEG, grad,lowly job,cyclist,Ldn,young 52,SOH lsc Life's mysteries,health. WLTM F,any nat,SOH. ALA Box No I:1478.

60, JUST RETIRED, small, warm, active woman, with many interests. WLTM fit N/S man to share walking, music & holidays. Box No I:1479

ROBIN FROM CAMBS. What a lovely gesture. Send address for reply. Box No I:1425

MAINLY RECONSTRUCTED PROF. MAN, 46, Veg Likes mountains, meditation, openness. Seeks self aware, warm, Aberdeenshire woman. Box No I:1477.

Charities

Disability Now – the essential monthly magazine for everyone with an interest in disability.

Reserve your copy at your Newsagent today!

Or contact Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, FREEPOST 17, London W1E 3HU Tel: 0171 383 4575

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

Personal

Hilda Jackson, Margaret J Balkwill, Marion Platter (nee Davies), Margaret Hughes (née Summerfield), Royston Bizeley and S V Rama Rao, all students who attended the Slade School of Fine Art between the late 1940s and early 1960s. Please write to Susan Nettle, Director of Publications, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT or telephone 0171-391 1616.

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We do. Kidney research saves lives. So do legacies.
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New Homes

New Homes

MILTON COURT
WANDSWORTH

75% ALREADY SOLD OFF PLAN!

Set in the heart of historic Wandsworth, Milton Court offers luxurious 3 bedroom town houses and 1 or 2 bedroom apartments just minutes away from London's West End. This exciting new development combines character with convenience, and enjoys high specification levels which can be enhanced with our award winning HomeMaker scheme.

Existing home to sell? Then ask about our Part Exchange deal.
Prices: 3 bedroom town houses from £175,000
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Tel: 0181 877 9006 (24hrs)

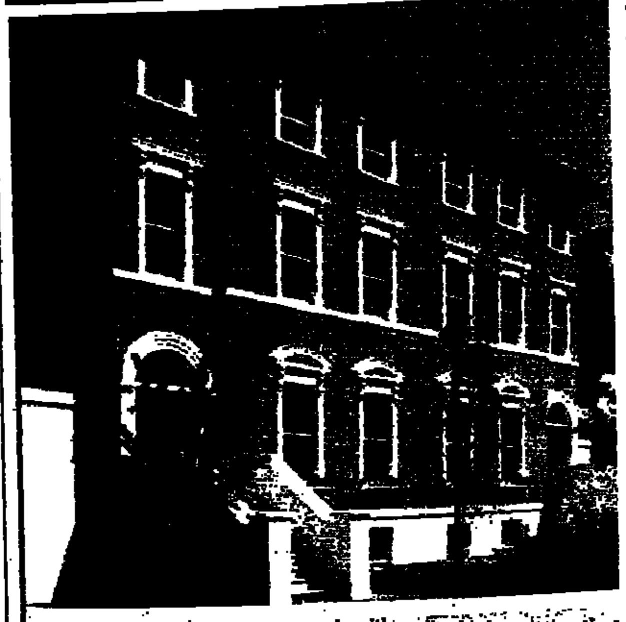
Milton Court, Chesterton Close, Wandsworth, London

Fairclough Homes
Come home to quality

SALES OFFICE OPEN 10AM - 5PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

London Property

London Property



- 1 & 2 Bedroom apartments, each with individual character
- Easy access to the City (2 miles)
- Burglar alarms fitted
- Within beautifully landscaped gardens
- Off-street parking available at £9750
- One bedroom apartment: £117,500
  Two bedroom apartments from £185,500 to £240,000

"Perfect reconstruction of the past" Evening Standard
"Property of the Week" Country Life
"Homes built to blend in" Sunday Times

FINAL PHASE NOW RELEASED

Grove Manor Homes invite you to join them for a glass of champagne to celebrate the success of Canonbury Park South, N1.
This beautiful NEW development combines Victorian elegance with modern living.
Only seven apartments remaining and all ready for occupation in early autumn.

Show apartment open every day 11am – 6pm

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26, CANONBURY PARK SOUTH
ISLINGTON, N1

London Property

Patent House

An exquisite development of only ten warehouse apartments in a fine fronted period building, offered in a choice of shell, part or fully finished form.

FOR A REAL WAREHOUSE APARTMENT, ... BE BOLD

Single, Double & Triple Deck Living

50% RESERVED

PATENT HOUSE LONDON E14
AREA: 820 - 2420 sq. ft.
PRICE: £89,995 - £219,995
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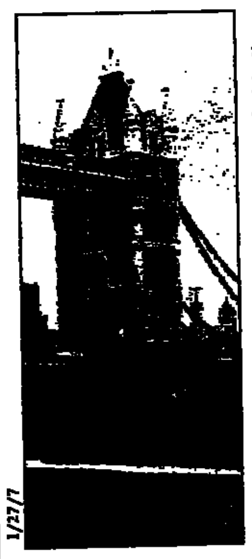
London Property

Prices reduced

for quality two bedroom apartments within easy travelling distance of the City. Hermitage Court, Wapping EI.



Bovis Homes Limited have recently reduced prices on a select number of previously rented prestigious 2 bedroom apartments at Hermitage Court, Wapping.

Hermitage Court is an attractive development centred around a tranquil landscaped courtyard, strategically located between Tower Hill and Wapping underground stations on the doorstep of the City of London. Prices quoted include light fittings, a fully fitted kitchen, carpets and curtains throughout and an allocated space in the secure underground car park.

APARTMENT 4	Previously £182,000	NOW £155,000
APARTMENT 25	Previously £159,950	NOW £135,000
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Apartments are offered on a 117 year unexpired lease with porterage and competitive service charges. For further information please contact the Sales Office on 0171 481 2457 (24 hours).

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- Gymnasium
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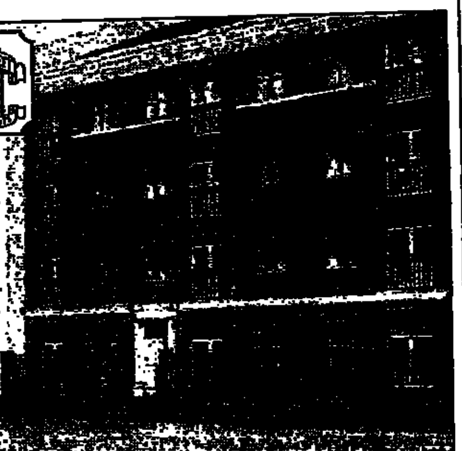
- 1 & 2 bedrooms
- Prices from only

£97,995



Weston Homes Plc

SALES OFFICE
0171-480 4812

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RE-AVAILABLE FOR SALE
AT THE STRIKING WARNER HOUSE LOFT STYLE DEVELOPMENT

- * 1461 sq ft
- * Inc large south facing balcony
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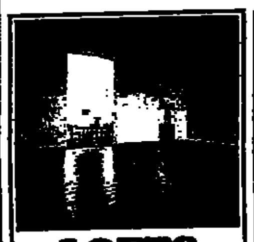
- * Private passenger lift

FOR INFORMATION TO VIEW THIS AND OUR FORTH COMING "WARNER 2" PROJECT CONTACT 0171 713 1544



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SHELL FINISH
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REAL LOFTS
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FINAL PHASE OF ART DECO APARTMENTS

With the first 2 phases of this prestigious development NOW SOLD, the final phase of the Strand Building is nearing completion.

These final apartments include a selection of studio 1 & 2 bedroom properties from £39,995-£74,995

Beat the rush for these last apartments contact our sole agent for more details or information on our "14 Day Exchange Package"

STRAND

COVERED SECURE PARKING

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Services

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Independent on Sunday
tomorrow for our special feature on
Country Residential Properties
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INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

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Quality Houseboat on the River Thames. 2 double cabins, bathroom, galley, living/dining room, spacious lounge and sundecks. The secure residential mooring has a garden with a small shed. Included in the sale is a 9ft dinghy £92,000
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Essex

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I am a Georgian town house. Lovingly decorated and cared for by a nice professional couple who need to relocate. I look small from outside but I have three floors with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. I also have a courtyard garden, an enormous cellar begging to be converted and a resident's parking space.

I am one minute from the market square used in *Lovejoy*, staggering distance from both the local pub and Chinese restaurant and Liverpool Street is only 55 mins by train. Saffron Walden is a pretty North Essex town where people still say good morning and it is safe to go out at night. The best bit of all is they only want £95,000. If you think you can give me a good home - call 01799 520520 quoting FAR/42

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EUSTON
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Prices range from £465,000 to £745,000.

For a home you have always wanted contact Kingsbury Stone on their Sales Information line at any time on (01202) 713200

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Character stone end-terrace mews cottage. Rural village location, Leeds city centre 9 miles, Bradford 7 miles. 3 bedrooms (master en-suite), family bathroom, lounge, dining room/breakfast, kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, integral garage, private lawned gardens.
£115,000
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To Let

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QUAINT, 2 BED terraced cottage £39,950. Tel: Miss Dewson. 01179736139/8236026.

Overseas Property

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Immaculate three bed apartment in former Hunting Lodge 14 miles [illegible] from city centre [illegible] lounge with [illegible] countryside views. Luxurious bath/shower room, kitchen/dining area. Small landscaped garden, garage. £74,950 o.n.o. Day: 0171 293 2343

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It Works...
"We successfully sold our house in Wales through the *Independent on Sunday's Property Gallery*. Interested buyers called from Wales, as well as the Midlands, Scotland, London and the South-East.
We were delighted with this way of selling our home and would definitely recommend it to others."
M.W. and D.P. May 1996

Fill in this coupon and send payment, a colour photograph and up to 40 words of copy to:
The Property Team, Classified Advertising, 19th Floor, Independent Newspaper, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL
Deadline for receipt of copy/photo is the Tuesday 12 days prior to Sunday publication. Offer open to private advertisers only, commercial advertising package available on request.

NAME...TELEPHONE (daytime)...........................
ADDRESS...
I require 1☐ 2☐ 3☐ (tick appropriate box) Sunday Advertisement(s) at a total cost of £..................
Please enclose a cheque for this amount made payable to 'Newspaper Publishing Plc' or fill in your Visa/Access/Amex/Diners Club details:
CREDIT CARD NO ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ EXPIRY DATE.................... SIGNATURE..........................

For advice or more information please call 'The Property Team' on 0171-293 2343 or 0171-293 2302

ROY BROOKS
ESTATE AGENTS, VALUERS AND PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
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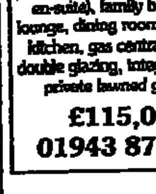
WOODVALE, EAST DULWICH, SE22



A Victorian semi in superb decorative order requiring a new kitchen. High ceilings and coved cornices are features of the accommodation which comprises two reception rooms, three/four bedrooms, two bathrooms and kitchen. The rear garden is 150'.
£168,500 freehold

France

FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION
ADMISSION FREE
6TH, 7TH, 8TH SEPTEMBER 1996
FRI. 11.00 AM TO 7.00 PM SAT. 10.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SUN. 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM
THE EXHIBITION CENTRE, NOVOTEL, 1 SHORTLANDS, HAMMERSMITH, LONDON W6
Organised by FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS
2a Lambton Road, London SW20 0LR. Telephone: 0181 944 5500
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...Manor Homes invite ...join them for a glass ...mpagne to celebrate ...uccess of Canonbury ...South, N1
...beautiful NEW ...lopment combines ...orian elegance with ...dern living.
...ly seven apartments ...maining and all ready ...r occupation in early ...autumn.
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* 1461 sq ft
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To advertise in the Property Section please call 0171 293 2343

What would you pay for a gorgeous garden? A beautiful, mature plot might not command the premium you expect

By Penny Jackson

A friend's mother always insists that she lives in a garden with a cottage. After years of army postings during which time she satisfied her love of plants by sketching strange and exotic flowers, she finally settled in a sheltered Somerset valley. Nothing will uproot her now from the garden it took so long to create. But for many people, moving is a chance to start again, to get it right. At last the problem of a garden too large or too small or too windy can be remedied. And even though buyers with soil testers rather than tape measures are thin on the ground, gardens can make – or break – a sale.

What is surprising, perhaps, is that a beautiful, mature garden does not necessarily lead to a rush of offers. When Wendy Lauderdale put her three-bedroom Wiltshire cottage on the market in the early summer, she anticipated a quick sale. It was not just that it was pretty, thatched and in open countryside close to the famous Stourhead Estate, but because the garden is gorgeous. Mrs Lauderdale opened it under the National Gardens Scheme and two years ago it was voted as one of the places visitors most enjoyed.

It is the kind of garden most of us can only dream of creating. At the moment it is at a high-summer peak: hydrangeas and the tall, ethereal, lilac-coloured Thalictrum are in full bloom in borders mixed with different shades of bergamot and interspersed with pots of lilies. Alongside a pergola of honeysuckle, roses and clematis – now past its best – Japanese anemones are springing up. Phlox are on the verge of spectacular. Dramatic but also, it seems, daunting.

Wendy Lauderdale at work in the garden she created 12 years ago Photograph: Christopher Jones

"So many people say they could never manage the upkeep," said Mrs Lauderdale. "In fact the hard work is done, all it needs is a bit of thinning out, dead heading in summer and then pruning. But I haven't seen a real gardener yet. You would be amazed how many people trip down the path without even a glance at the garden."

It was 12 years ago that she and her husband bought the cottage, on a National Trust lease. The Lauderdales carved the garden out of field and thistle into distinctive areas – which makes it seems larger than its half an acre. Wendy Lauderdale has even written a book, describing its creation. Nevertheless, she is pragmatic about her imminent departure: "I can always create another garden, and I always tell people that they don't have to keep it as it is. They can concrete it over if they want to."

Size of garden can prove a sticking point, estate agents find. Simon Barker of Michael de Pelet who, with Knight Frank, is selling the Lauderdale's house for offers in excess of £185,000, said that the Lauderdale's garden has helped the price. But he added that people interested in a cottage would not be keen to employ a gardener, whereas this would be taken for granted with a large house and garden. Nor do buyers stipulate what kind of garden they want. "Occasionally we get people asking for walled gardens, but not many are specific – it limits their choice of house," he said.

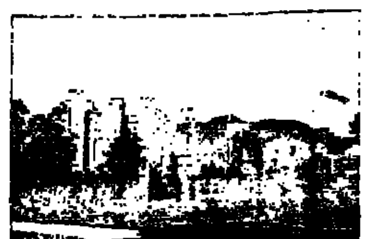
Many buyers who are keen gardeners like the idea of starting from scratch and the potential of a house with either a neglected garden or surrounded by rough land has a strong appeal, especially if it is in a good position. While at the other end of the scale, there is a premium on houses with gardens designed by someone famous. Ian Stewart of Savills reckons that a Gertrude Jekyll garden, for instance, adds at least 10 per cent to the value. "It has to go to the right person, someone who appreciates the planting and that a good garden cannot be created overnight."

Certainly, in London, where designers are at work on pea-sized patios, an established garden with traits of Jekyll-inspired naturalism would be snapped up. But, again, size can be a drawback. Ben Stagg, of Goldschmidt & Howland's Hampstead office, says that some people refuse to touch a large garden with a bargepole, even if the upkeep is less than for a small, intricate plot. "If a family does want a large garden, they often go for zero maintenance – trees and a good area of grass for the kids to play on." A good-sized period property in Hampstead with a garden of about 80ft would be in the region of £800,000 to £1m.

As for the perennial search for the perfect south-facing plot, in many cases this is a waste of effort, says Mr Stagg. "A south-facing garden is no good if you have very tall building or trees at the end. A north-facing garden that is open to the west can be much sunnier."

However, in central London, the best kept secrets are the secluded garden squares, hidden from prying eyes. No one who spends just part of the year in town wants the burden of a garden. Buy a house in, say, Green Street in Mayfair (about £2m), says Simon Barnes of Lassmans, and with it comes access to a communal garden with fountain, flower beds and privacy. And if you want to party, *sur l'herbe*, there are no worries about weeds. The Grosvenor Estate sees to all that.

Househunter
Greenwich



Here is a rare chance to live in a castle in London. A four-bedroom detached wing of Vanbrugh Castle in Greenwich has just come on to the market. The 18th-century, Grade I-listed building was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, architect of Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace. The accommodation is arranged over two floors and there are magnificent views over Greenwich Park and London from the 31ft reception room. Asking price is £450,000 for a 999 year lease. Agents are Winkworth (0181-852 0000).

For what it's worth

The marriage ceremony is not the only service to have a language overhaul this week. Black Horse Surveying Services yesterday gave a lead to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors by launching a no-jargon home survey that meets the approval of the Plain English Campaign. Instead of wording such as "Difficulties in access restricted visual inspection of the second roof-space and it cannot be regarded, therefore, as free from defect", you would get: "I could not see the second roof-space". The survey also offers customers a pledge of a direct approach to complaints, avoiding the costly legal route. Peter Bruning, national director of Black Horse Surveying Services, said the trigger had been a *Which?* report of 15 months ago. This had looked at the courts' failure to help consumers of surveys get justice and criticised the use of caveats and difficult language in reports. The new survey also offers free emergency insurance cover for a year and and homebuyers can save around £100 if they choose Black Horse to do a survey at the time their bank or building society does a valuation.

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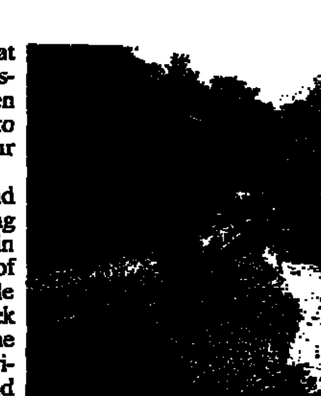
Poetic licence: Edinburgh beyond the Festival

By Brian Patten



Peaceful options in Edinburgh: Princes Street Gardens (above) and the Water of Leith (left)

Photographs: Geraint Lewis

It's your first day at the Edinburgh Festival. You've been smart enough to organise your accommodation well in advance and you're feeling smug about being within walking distance of Edinburgh Castle instead of being stuck at the far end of the A68. Armed with various Festival guides and the hundreds of leaflets thrust at you by panicking young thespians within moments of your arrival, you are sitting in your rented flat ticking off possible shows. So far you've noted Louise Rennison's *Sex Tips for Girls*, a Bolivian String Quartet, and the latest revelations from a brilliant up-and-coming gay socialist transvestite called Chloe Poems.

You arrived in the city last night, dumped your luggage and headed out with the intention of catching a late show. You fancied a drink first so dropped into Bennet's bar by the King's Theatre, where you fell into conversation with an American academic and a Glaswegian escapologist.

The escapologist reminded you about Rose Street, which you recalled from a visit to the Festival years ago. You remembered the warm, traditional bars and good conversation with local artists and writers, and so the three of you decamped.

It was a bit depressing to find Rose Street well smartened up and with bouncers guarding the pub doors, so you suggested a visit to a bar called Sandy Bells because it was here you first met the great Scottish poet and folk historian, Hamish Henderson, when you were 16. You stood looking at him, in awe of his teeth. But last night wasn't your lucky night, for when you arrived at Sandy Bells it was closing. You were tired anyway, so headed back for an early night, still cultureless.

So, it's now the morning of your first full day at the arts festival to end all arts festivals. An early-morning show? OK, but look, it's sunny and the light is extra sharp and the air smells of burning hops from the brewery. You've known the festival in years when everything has been dreary and drenched in constant rain so you might as well make the best of it. You wander down to Princes Street Gardens – where Princes Street hits Lothian Road.

At this end of the gardens there is a gigantic fountain, a folly or masterpiece depending on your taste, and you sit at a table beside it, with coffee and sandwiches from the mobile café and do your best to avoid the wasps that are already droning around the tables and weaving in and out of the numerous wire waste-baskets.

It's so lovely here. The fountain sounds as a fountain should, the thin sunlight is on your face, and in the near distance a band is tuning up for an outside concert.

Noon now. Too late for a morning show. An afternoon show? But you've left all your guides and brochures at home, and really it's far too nice to sit in a cramped little theatre watching a play or tomorrow's hungry contenders for the crowns of French and Saunders. Instead, you amble down to Stockbridge and rummage among the new antique shop till it's time for a light lunch at one of the numerous coffee houses.

By now early afternoon is giving way to late afternoon and you've still to have your first sniff of culture. You decide to walk up to the Assembly Rooms in George Street to see what's on – with 900 performances of numerous shows over three weeks, something's bound to take your fancy. As you set out for your first cultural experience of the 50th Edinburgh Festival you suddenly get an inexplicable urge for shady riverside walks instead, and a few minutes later you are beside the Water of Leith. You walk beneath trees beside a river – a secret valley both moments and light-years away from the hum of festival traffic.

Flowers that have escaped from the cultivated gardens of the grand, leaf-hidden houses above you have rooted here, their colours a bit paler in the gloom, and the last of the summer's dragonflies helicopter about above stepping stones. You find a bench and sit down for a while, and read the last few chapters of the book you started on the long train ride coming up to Scotland.

By now you've missed all the afternoon shows and so you return to your accommodation for a rest and a shower. You doze off and dusk is falling by the time you are back out among the scrum of festival goers. The very last sunbeams are glittering on the tall buildings and spires, but that's fine, for when it sets they'll still retain their beauty. Illuminated by discreet spotlights they'll float in a faint haze and you'll gawp at them in wonder, and wonder why you don't live here year round.

You've wandered through the old part of town and crossed Waverley Bridge into Princes Street again. In the open space around the back of the National Gallery there are jugglers and street musicians and the Glaswegian escapologist. There are also pavement artists and students advertising their shows with an urgency that makes you realise the venue they've booked to perform in is four miles and two bus changes from the city centre. You buy an ice-cream and, browsing among the faces of the multitude, spot the American academic from the bar last night. You were both a bit disappointed that Sandy Bells was closed so decide on a quick visit now.

An ex-pupil of Hamish Henderson is singing a traditional Highland lyric – it's so beautiful you and your American academic forget about theatre. This is the crack. It's theatre enough.

Maybe tomorrow you'll take in a show. Maybe after a visit to the nearby seaside or to the Museum of Childhood, or to the wonderful National Gallery of Modern Art. Or maybe you'll just wander in the ancient courtyards where the ghosts of Scotland's great romantic poets and novelists peer down from narrow, turreted windows. You might even visit the Castle if you've time, or take another slow stroll down the Royal Mile. For by now you are at ease. By now it's dawned on you that you've already bought your first ticket of the Festival. It was the ticket you purchased to travel here, the ticket that got you to the greatest show the Festival can offer, to Edinburgh itself.

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5. Formal wear – darling, when you've got that much money, who cares?

It may come as a shock on the terraces. But it can cost more to follow your favourite football team than to be an opera buff

JOJO MOYES

What price devotion? As the football season begins, some fans are about to discover that their draughty seat in the stands may cost them more than a box at the Opera.

In the 1990s, real dedication, whether it be to Blackburn Rovers, Britten or Boyzone, is an expensive business. For the average football fan, the cost of keeping up with a favourite team can now run into thousands of pounds a year.

David Blatt, vice chairman of the London branch of the Football Supporters' Association, describes the sport as his "team, his religion". But he admits that following the dream can leave fans broke.

"A season ticket to a premiership club can now cost something between £250 and £400. In the last five years inflation has gone up by around 20 per cent, but ticket prices have gone up an average 300 per cent. It's a joke," he said.

"For First Division clubs you're looking at a gate of between £10 and £40. Say you have 30 games a season, every one an away trip. With your fare money, a couple of drinks and a dog burger, you're well into £60 for the day. That's £1,800 a season."

Fans who cannot afford to travel to every game might instead subscribe to Sky sports channels. They are the only way to ensure full match coverage, at a cost of approximately £26 a month.

"If you don't want to pay the subscription you go to a pub, but some pubs are now charging £4 to £5 to come in on big match days," said Mr Blatt, a Manchester United fan.

Then there is the football strip, made legendary by David Mellor and a fashion item no footie fan can do without – a fact not unnoticed by the clubs.

Full kits, including shorts, tops and socks cost up to £69. Some clubs produce up to three a year. Mr Blatt says he and his household would be "decked from top to bottom in red and white" if his wife allowed it. But he admits that passion has an increasingly high price. "If you've got kids, for example, it just becomes too expensive. There may be a point where football stops being an ordinary mans' game."

> 'The game may get so expensive that it stops being for ordinary people'

Perhaps Mr Blatt ought to redirect his tenners towards a tenor. A three-season ticket for all productions at the English National Opera would cost him a mere £75 to £600 a year.

Productions at the Royal Opera House would cost him a little more. While tickets in the Gods (the opera equivalent of the football terraces) cost an average £45, tickets in the stalls average out at £114-120 each.

A fan with a passion for Pavarotti might pay more; demand for his performances means that tickets have changed hands for up to £500.

But for the true opera buffs, the high G of the opera year is the Glyndebourne Festival. This year, tickets cost just £10 upwards. For a donation of between £30,000-£150,000, they could become founder members, which guarantees tickets, although they have to be paid for on top, along with an annual subscription of £960-£4,800.

At this depth of pocket, *aficionados* are unlikely to worry about the subsidiary costs of a couple of glasses of champagne, dinner for two and the accompanying CDs, which can now be bought at Royal Opera House. It has a sales kiosk in its foyer, having recognised the enthusiasts' appetite for associated merchandise.

And when it comes to the pop fan, this appetite knows no bounds.

Kate Thornton, editor of the magazine *Smash Hits*, recently did a costing on all the official merchandise available for Take That in one year, including the cost of going to two concerts.

"It came to £1,700. That includes bedcovers, lampshades and swiss rolls. If they are fanatical, ie the average girl fan, they will get as much of it as they possibly can."

Even for the young, fandom does not come cheap. An evening at a Boyzone concert, for example, might cost the devotee £16 per ticket, £25 in travel and £10 in food and drink.

"Then you would have to have a programme – £6, a T-shirt, – £15, and your commemorative poster, key ring and mug – total £14." Ms Thornton said. Add to your video of Boyzone hit singles a video of the concert, "so that you can relive your moment in the audience", and you are a further £25 down. This is before you have even bought the music. (The average *Smash Hits* reader, says Ms Thornton, buys four CD singles and two albums a month).

The "mushrooming" of the merchandising industry is not lost on *Smash Hits*, which now produces its own line. "We feature Boyzone in every issue. We know that people will buy it, just for a poster," said Ms Thornton, who says there are "tens and thousands" of such fans; a recent offer of the underpants of Take That heartthrob Mark Owen's, "worn and unwashed", received 300,000 applications.

"With merchandise now it's not what they can afford, it's what they can't afford not to have," she said.

David Blatt agreed. He would sacrifice the cost of the family holiday if it meant going to a dream match.

"The most important words in the world are 'I was there'. Nothing can compensate for that. That's worth however much you have to pay."

Postmen's leaders prepare to call four-day strike

Postal workers' leaders yesterday threatened to stage a four-day strike unless fresh talks are held on the long-running dispute over pay and working practices.

Industrial action will be escalated to hit mail deliveries from 30 August for four days if talks are not re-opened by next Thursday, the date of the next postal strike.

The executive of the Communication Workers' Union said support for the campaign of industrial action was solid and officials disputed the Royal Mail's claims of a drift back to work.

Alan Johnson, the union's joint general secretary, said he hoped the threatened four-day strike would not be necessary and pledged that efforts would be made to resume negotiations.

But the Royal Mail said it was "outrageous" to threaten further strikes while continuing to refuse to ballot members on an offer worked out during the protracted negotiations that were held at Acas.

Richard Dykes, its managing director, said: "We are appalled at the union's complete disregard for customers and for the views of its own members. Further strike action is not going to resolve this dispute. It will only make the situation worse.

"The union executive are burying their heads in the sand. Threatening further strikes will put the jobs of their members at risk as well as causing further disruption for customers."

The union was "ignoring reality" in claiming that support for strikes was solid, Mr Dykes said, and added that 19,400 postmen and women worked during Wednesday's strike, more than double the number who did so during the first walkout.

The union disputed the figures. It said support for the campaign of industrial action was holding firm and had strengthened in some regions. In a briefing paper that has been issued to union branches, Mr Johnson said that more effort would be made to resume negotiations with the Royal Mail.

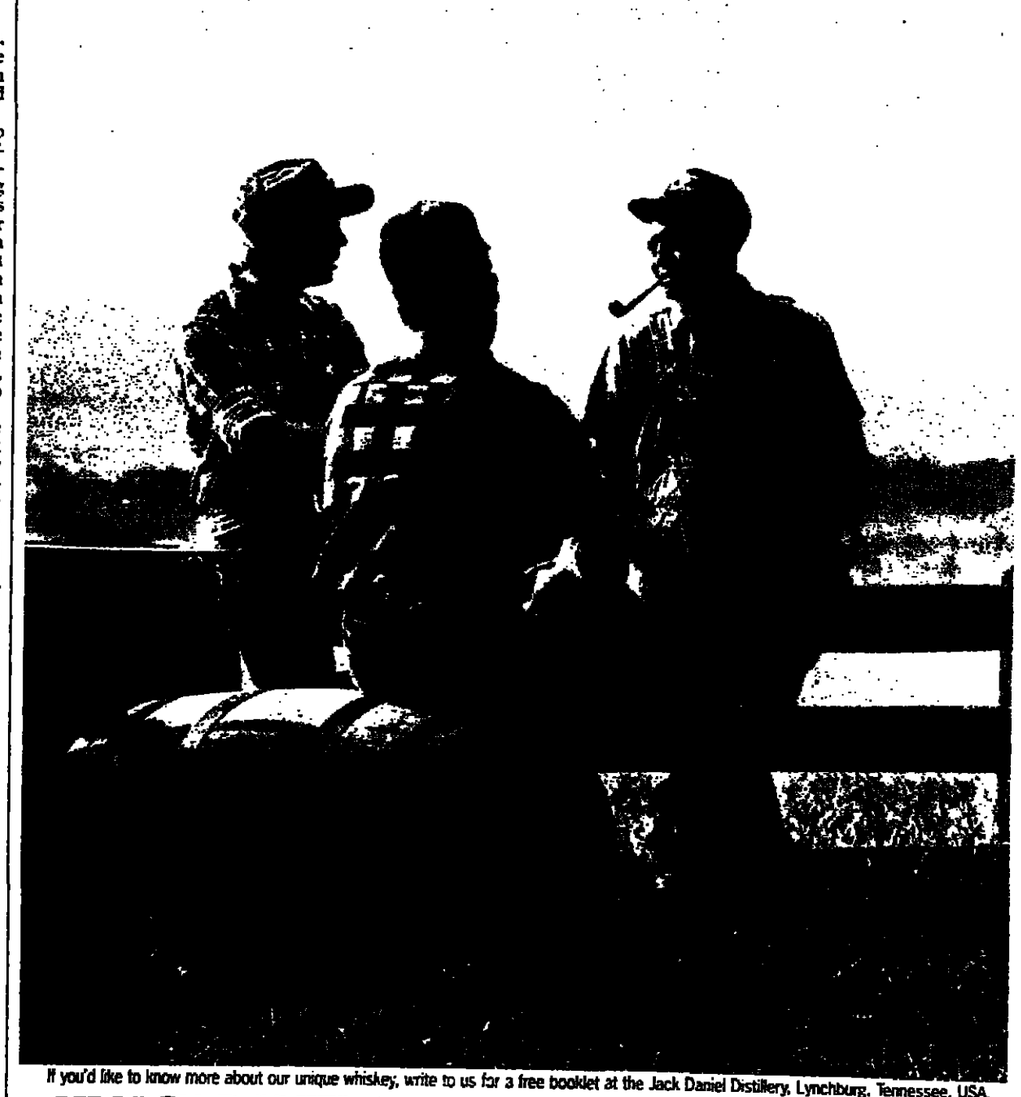
Wednesday's strike had been probably the best supported of the five that have been held so far held, he added. Given the Royal Mail's efforts to claim that the dispute was crumbling and that workers were insisting on a ballot, Wednesday was the "most crucial" date in the union's programme of industrial action so far.

The Department of Trade and Industry made no direct comment on the executive's decision.

A spokesman for the department said that the Government's one-month suspension of the Royal Mail's monopoly would be reviewed at the end of the period.

The Government has threatened to extend the suspension of the monopoly by three months if further industrial action is called.

The union had previously set strikes on Friday 30 August and Monday 2 September, and threatened yesterday to add the intervening Saturday and Sunday unless new talks are held.



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news

Making the grade: Students celebrating success in the A-level examinations, but, according to one careers adviser, success at this stage is no guarantee of anything

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

The day Britain got that A-grade feeling

JAMES CUSICK

Students anticipating further academic success, fame, fortune and happiness after scoring five top grades in their A-levels should beware of counting their chickens, according to Oxford University's careers adviser. High achievement at this stage is no guarantee of anything.

But there is worse news for those A-level students who did not do so well. Brunel University's careers office maintains that even if poor A-level performances are overcome and an undergraduate goes on to gain a first-class honours degree, today's blue-chip companies looking for recruits are still interested in A-level results.

A spokesman said: "CAHP is the buzzphrase at the moment – consistent academic high performance. They want to know if you've always been bright.

"One of the really sad things these days is that what you do at A-level now comes back to haunt you. It is one of the big problems facing students – that their early performances seem to matter rather a lot."

Tom Snow, of Oxford University, cautioned: "There is a good correlation between A-level results and later academic performance. But the correlation is not so good between their academic performance and what they go on to do next."

In what Mr Snow quaintly called the "after-life", certificated success was "not enough". He advised: "You should never think you are going to walk straight into a great job. You've still got hard choices to make, and a lot of work to do."

Mr Snow's warning of no guarantees proved too accurate for one pupil who gained six top grade A-levels. The head teacher of King Edward's school in Bath has written to Cambridge University to complain after it rejected one su pupil. Andrew Archer's resu prove he intelligent, but appe not be an open passport.

If the choice is hard at age is it harder at age nine? Ru Lawrence achieved a top gra in A-level mathematics at ti when most normal pupils struggling with long divis sums. Mr Snow's correlat held. She went on to colle first-class honours at Oxfor aged 13. Another degree her doctorate were won bef her 16th birthday.

After teaching in Harv and the University of Michig Ms Lawrence went on to search "knot theory" at the stitut des Hautes Etu Scientifiques at Bures-s Yvette, near Paris.

Harry, her father – of branded a figure of either session or parental devotio is still accompanying his pro gy daughter everywhere.

After her A-level result ca fleeting fame and continu success. But happiness? It probably too early to tell.

Ruth's sister, Rebecca, w equally precocious. Coach by her mother, she too hadn early top-grade maths certifica at 11. But hot-housing and le world of the fast-track academic were not her choice.

She now works as a pharmacist at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

The poet TS Eliot took a wider and more pragmatic view. Success, he said, was relative: it depended "on what we can make of the mess we have made of things".

The one-day-a week job that costs the taxpayer £92,305 a year and achieves precisely nothing

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

The government-appointed Commissioner for Protection against Unlawful Industrial Action, who cost the taxpayer £92,803 last year, was unable to help any of the three people who asked for her assistance.

According to official accounts presented to Parliament last week, the commissioner, Gill Rowlands, was paid an annual salary of £13,992 before she stepped down from her one-day-a-week post last May.

But she received a further £28,015 for her other part-time job - which she conducted from the same Warrington offices - as Commissioner for the Rights of Trade Union Members, for two days a week.

Perhaps in recognition of the productivity of the double-headed commissioner, Ms Rowlands' replacement in both posts - the former chief executive of West Glamorgan council, Gerry Corless - has been put on a total salary of £35,000, a cut from her pay rate of more than 16 per cent.

In her role as Commissioner for the Rights of Trade Union Members, which cost the taxpayer a total £336,646, Ms Rowlands was able to offer concrete assistance to just eight applicants in the year to last April.

For an overall cost of more than £400,000 for the two commissions, each successfully completed case therefore cost the Exchequer about £50,000.

But because Ms Rowlands was doing what Parliament had asked her to do under the terms of the Employment Act 1988, and the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, Sir John Bourn, could hardly complain about a gross waste of resources in accounts published last week.

Ms Rowlands conceded in her last annual report as Commissioner for Protection against Unlawful Industrial Action: "As in previous years, and as far as I am aware, there have been few, if any, instances of unions becoming involved in unlawfully organised industrial action."

However, she then added: "If this is the case, it is my view that the current industrial relations legislation and my role within that legislation are proving to be effective deterrents."

According to her report, "Three formal applications for assistance have been received during the reporting year." None of the applications fell within the scope of her powers.

Perhaps anticipating criticism, Ms Rowlands also said: "The real value of my office is apparent when one considers the potential financial and personal cost of a one-day strike at national level by comparison with the annual budget of my office."

As for her other role, as Commissioner for the Right of Trade Union Members, Ms Rowlands prefers to concentrate on the number of enquiries that her office has dealt with over the year - more than a thousand - rather than the actual cases involving material assistance in court proceedings.

Ms Rowlands said: "I would prefer union members to settle their differences with their unions through internal procedures. When this occurs, because of the deterrent factor of my office, or when the matter is resolved because I have informed the member that I will not assist unless internal procedures to resolve the issue have been exhausted, I consider it a success for this office."

In her valedictory report on the year's work, Ms Rowlands said: "During the year, there has been a wide range of complaints, including those relating to removal from office contrary to rule, failure to allow access to accounting records, and breaches of rules relating to disciplinary proceedings.

"Many people have also contacted my office assuming that I can investigate complaints on their behalf and referring to me as the union ombudsman. I have made the nature of my role clear to them: that I have neither the power to investigate nor to provide advice."

Close reading of the account of the commissioner's "caseload activity", shows only eight cases "successfully resolved" with her help.

"Following the grant of assistance, the commissioner withdrew support from four applicants; eight applicants failed to progress their applications after initial contact with the office; twenty-two applications were found to be outside the scope of the commissioner's powers ... The remaining forty-eight (although within the scope of the commissioner's power to grant assistance) were not assisted."

Gill Rowlands: 'Many people have contacted my office ... I have neither the power to investigate nor to provide advice'

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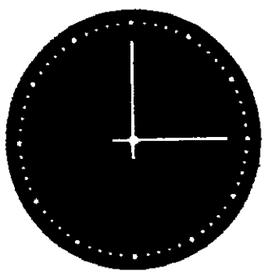

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French francs come freely, just for one day

MICHAEL STREETER

The prospect of an end to commission for holiday currency moved a step closer today with Thomas Cook changing sterling into French francs for no charge.

The offer for holidaymakers is for today only but the company is considering longer commission "amnesties" on the most popular foreign currencies next year.

A spokesman for Thomas Cook, which controls about a quarter of the multi-million-pound high-street business and has 600 shops and bureaux de change, said a pilot scheme with Spanish pesetas earlier this year had been "extremely successful".

Nick Agarwal, the company's public relations manager, said: "We found that the trial with pesetas generated a lot of interest and from our point of view this kind of offer can bring in other business."

He said the company was actively considering bringing in the scheme on a more permanent basis for travellers next year, though the free service would probably be restricted to the larger-volume currencies such as francs and pesetas. The company's normal commission is 1 per cent.

The pesetas offer in June boosted orders and purchases by more than 500 per cent and Thomas Cook hopes its offer on francs, the second most popular holiday currency, will have a similar impact. The deal applies to cash transactions only and is limited to a maximum of £2,000 on any one deal.

Lindsey Allardyce, Thomas Cook's foreign exchange marketing manager, said: "If you are off to France this summer, make sure you get your currency now. Anyone crossing the Channel this summer would be mad to miss out on a currency deal as crazy as this."

The offer is a boost for tourists at the end of a week when it emerged that at least one major holiday tour operator, Airtours, is to increase the price of some of its brochure holidays, by up to £30 a time.

That move was condemned by consumer groups yesterday, who said they were considering whether to make a legal challenge.

A Consumers' Association spokeswoman said that it was an offence for companies to give "inaccurate or misleading" prices in brochures.

Prescott delights left and right

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

Labour's high command yesterday backed away from open conflict with John Prescott following yesterday's *Independent* interview on the substance and style of New Labour change.

But the waves created by the deputy leader's forthright language – confirming that lots of MPs voted for shadow cabinet candidates "they couldn't stomach" – were welcomed by many traditionalist MPs who were content with Mr Prescott's "boat-rocking" protest.

A significant proportion of MPs, perhaps even a silent majority, share the deputy leader's view that Mr Blair has pushed party and policy change to the limits of endurance.

They are willing to suffer in silence in the interests of unity, but that does not mean they like it, and the row over Harriet Harman's choice of grammar school for her son showed that there are limits to their patience.

Pouring oil on the troubled waters created by Mr Prescott, a leadership spokesman said: "Tony Blair himself has frequently spoken of the inevitable impact of modernisation on some in the party.

"The important point is that Labour is stronger, fitter, more democratic and more united and self-disciplined as a result of the changes which, on every occasion a vote has been taken, have been overwhelmingly endorsed by the membership."

But Mr Prescott's mainstream point appeared to be underlined by Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, who said that while colleagues had displayed unity by voting for the shadow cabinet as a whole, that might have included backing some candidates they did not like.

That element of the Prescott interview was belatedly picked up by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo last night. He said: "It is an amazing state of affairs when you have a deputy leader of the Labour Party admitting that they have voted for fellow colleagues whom they cannot stand.

"Why, then, should they expect the British people to vote for those whom even they cannot stand?"

Predictably, a number of 'likely suspect' Labour MPs exploited Mr Prescott's remarks for their own critical purposes.

Alan Simpson, chairman of the left-wing Campaign Group of MPs, warned that Labour's popularity would be short-lived if it tied itself to Tory policies.

"The party would do well to heed what John Prescott is saying. We have the same backroom approach to fighting the next election as we had towards the last one.

"There's a perception we are trying to tie ourselves in very closely to where the Conservatives are in the hope we can just steal a march by cleverness.

"That didn't serve us well in the last two elections and we ought to be asking whether that is going to fare any better for the coming one.

"What Labour will discover very quickly is that if we change position without having a different agenda, that popularity is a short-lived one."

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Hunstanton's biggest ever birthday party

Norfolk's most genteel resort is 150 years old this summer – and in the best of health. By Bob Carter

The man outside Woolworths was whistling "Suicide is Painless". Just round the corner a man with a microphone addressed a dozen, mostly elderly, people in the garden of the church. "I used to gamble. Every time I came on holiday I had to go in the arcade and spend a pound". It's easily done in Hunstanton. A pound would give you 50 goes at the tuppenny falls or buy a cheap tray in the shop proclaiming "Don't Ask – It's a £".

On a cloudy, close August Sunday, Hunstanton is preparing for its biggest-ever party. There's a jazz band on the new bandstand on the green and a feel-good smattering of "no vacancies" signs in guesthouse windows. The resort of Hunstanton is 150 years old this summer and in the rudest of health – in a genteel sort of way.

A century-and-a-half ago there was none of this high excitement on top of the cliffs lining the top left-hand corner of Norfolk – just a small village where smugglers and customs officers occasionally fired sea-rusty muskets at one another, consigning the casualties to a corner of Saint Mary's churchyard, where they lie to this day.

Across the other side of the churchyard, in their family plot, lie the le Stranges, the family largely responsible for the Hunstanton of today and whose memory will be conjured up again this weekend when the birthday party gets into full swing.

In 1846, Henry Styleman le Strange, designer of the nave of Ely cathedral – and lord of the manor of this part of Norfolk – saw the business opportunities offered by the trend for days out and holidays at the seaside and built, a respectable distance away from the family seat, the New Inn, now the Golden Lion Hotel.

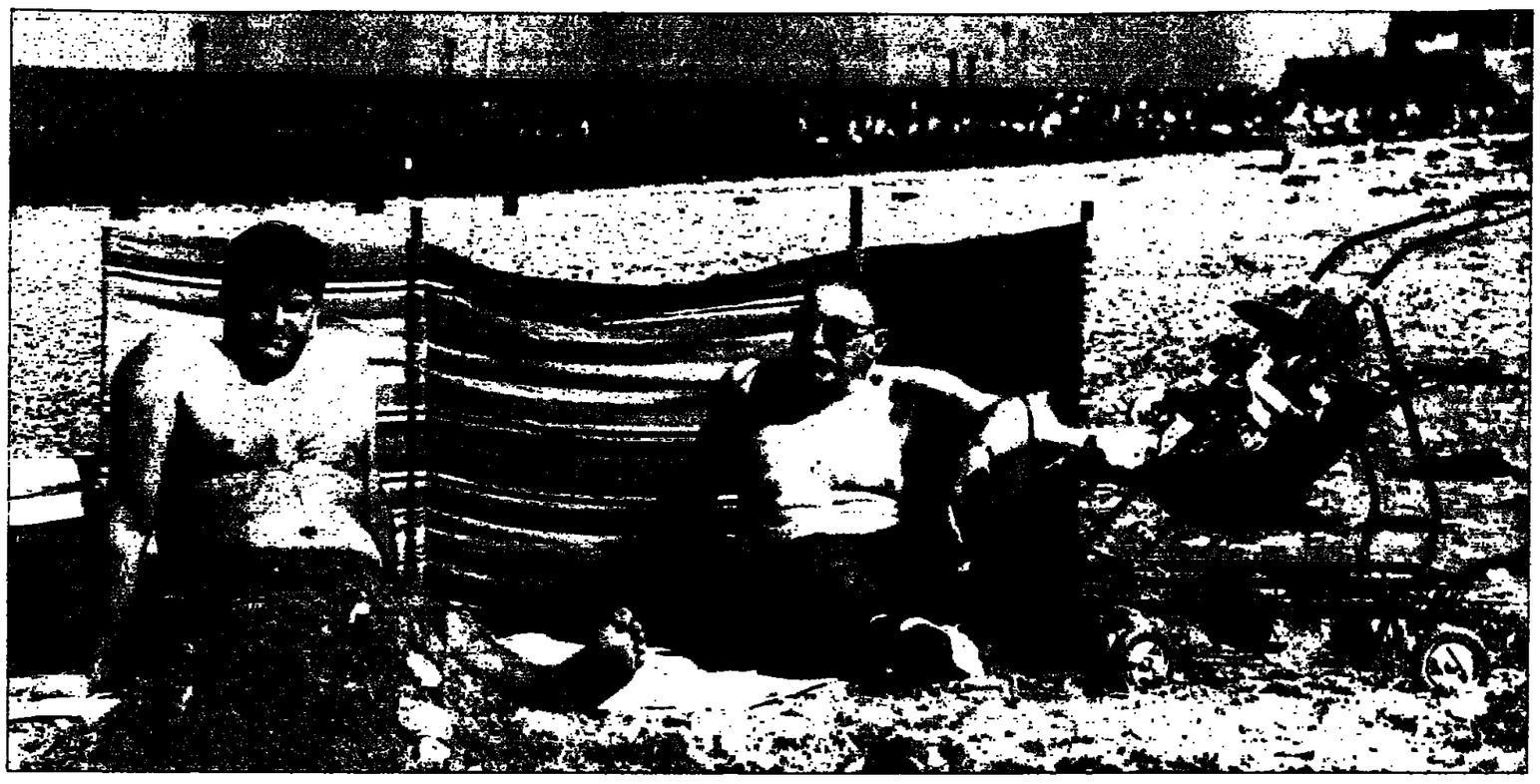
Even today Hunstanton tries to portray itself as a cut above the other resorts. And yes, it does seem different – strange, as in le Strange. Where other resorts have donkeys, Hunstanton offers pony rides. No motorboats here for trips round the bay: instead you take a ride along the sands in a wartime landing craft which then careers into the waves for a truly amphibian experience.

They'll tell you in the tourist information office that it's a quieter, more family-oriented place than the noisy commercialism of Cromer or even, God forbid, the flashy modernism of Great Yarmouth.

But it does not do to compare these places. Hunstanton – the Hunstanton of holidaymakers and not the old Hunstanton that lies quaintly rustic a mile or so up the coast – still has that essentially temporary feel, not helped by plenty of "to let" and "for sale" and even "keep off derelict building" signs which bear witness to the hard times that England's East Coast seaside resorts have faced.

The past and the present are essentially separate and though the old church up the road was begun in the 14th century, the idea of continuity seems to hang on two or three generations of the same family, using the same caravan year after year.

Tomorrow these Hunstanton regulars can join in the party, watch the raft race or the aerobatics, hear the big band, eat the cake and "ooh" and "aah" at the fireworks reflected in the calm waters of The Wash.



But it is hard to imagine the holidaymakers snapping up a Hunstanton souvenir sketchbook. The birthday porcelain, meanwhile, seems more designed for the hardy band who live here all year round, as an affirmation of self, an attempt to convince them of the town's permanence and importance. After all the setbacks, they are still here.

They looked the other way when H G Wells and Rebecca West set up home here in 1914. They struggled on when the Mikado Concert Hall burnt down in 1922, and shrugged off the pier fire in 1939. They soldiered on when the US Air Force at nearby Sculthorpe declared the Cold War at a close and returned to America, taking away a lifeline almost as important as the railway which closed in 1969. And even the disappearance of the pier, in a storm in 1978, failed to finish them off.

So they have earned their celebration and they may just be able to do it again at some date in the future for, despite its reliance on the beach bucket-and-spade-holiday, Hunstanton is branching out. It is as if there's a ripple effect gently washing over the town from the villages further east: Titchwell, Weyborne, the Burnhams and Brancaster, villages that at the weekend echo to stockbroker accents and 4x4 engines.

For walkers, birdwatchers, cyclists and horsemen and women who can't afford the cottage on the marsh, miles from anywhere, Hunstanton offers a much cheaper alternative. It stands at the junction of the Peddars' Way and the Norfolk Coastal Path, both established long-distance footpaths. One of the most popular lists asked for at the tourist bureau is that of the eight local stables. Birdwatchers, meanwhile, fill up the guesthouse beds at either end of the summer – from Hunstanton you can spend a week at bird reserves around the coast and never visit the same one twice.

So there, in the greenish leisure boom to come, lies the future, if not the spirit of Hunstanton. That still eludes the arcades, the Sealife Centre, and the Oasis Leisure Centre, which boasts a swimming pool just yards from the real waves. Nor is the true spirit of Hunstanton with the church revivals, the acres of caravans or the lone whistler outside Woolworths. The spirit of a resort like this will always be just beyond the sea wall where the summer-tamed tides of The Wash deposit acres of sand. A gleaming strand which every year transforms streetwise teenagers into children again, digging round the rock pools, building dams and reservoirs and waving crabs at tearful sisters.

You might knock it, you might jet half way round the world to escape it, but there's nothing that compares to a day on the beach, a cheese sandwich (with real sand) and dinner from the chip shop. And so long as Hunstanton remembers this, the town should have many happy returns of the day.

A generation enjoys the old-fashioned charms of Hunstanton beach

Photographs: Keith Dobney

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something to declare

A likely story

'New British Airways route creates $260 million and over 3,500 new jobs in the first year for Phoenix, Arizona' – City of Phoenix press release

The Arizona state capital is such a go-ahead place that city officials can already be precise about the impact of BA's new route from Gatwick, even though it began only in July. The daily DC-10 holds 271 passengers, of whom about half will stay on the plane as far as San Diego. So, assuming full loads throughout the year, 50,000 passengers will take the new flight. By the time they get to Phoenix, they will each have created more than £3,400 in wealth – about 10 times the lowest fare. On this basis, any large American city would do well to start a new route to London and pay everyone to travel on it. Or, at least, to write absurd press releases about it.

Trouble spots

Foreign Office advice about potential disaster areas

Canada: heavy flooding in the Saguenay-Lac St Jean region, Quebec. Communications are restored in most areas.

Montserrat: hurricane season from now until the end of October. Volcanic activity in the south, including the capital, Plymouth. Avoid that area.

Ukraine: diphtheria epidemic in parts of the country. Consult your GP about immunisation and other precautions.

Turkey: forest fires in the Marmaris, Datça, Mugla and Dalaman areas. Roads are open but there may be some delays and temporary closures.

Bangladesh: occasional floods. Check with local police that roads are open.

For more information call the Foreign Office on 0171-238 5403. FO travel advice is displayed on Ceefax, page 564 onwards, and can be accessed on the Internet on http://www.fco.gov.uk.

Visitors' book

Mrs Williams's B&B, Porthmadog, Gwynedd

Wonderful bed. After this I want flannel sheets for the rest of my life – *Jan-Olof Strindlund, Sweden.*

Warm Welsh hospitality and food on a cold winter's day. Thanks – *Jonathan Akikusa, Australia.*

Pink dreams in a pink room – *Françoise Swichocka-Leonard.*

Thanks for a nice stay and cheese – *Kety Rolfgaard, Denmark.*

Bargain of the week

The two shortest international air routes from London are to Antwerp and Brussels in Belgium, and these are the two served by the only unlimited travel commuter ticket. Sabena (0181-780 1444) sells unlimited trips within a month to either city from Heathrow and London City for a flat fee of £599 – apart from the troublesome tax of £10.40 per trip. Should you wish to make the most of it, try travelling to Antwerp twice a day for a month, with a day off on Saturdays. You'll end up spending almost £500 on tax – but will accrue 38,400 frequent flyer miles in the process.

UK DEPARTURES

Cheap day trips by rail to and from London are being heavily promoted by train operators in the Midlands and Yorkshire. The East Coast Main Line (0345 225225) offers a day trip to London King's Cross from Leeds for £20 or from York for £25; the same prices apply for travellers from London to Yorkshire. You must book by 2pm on the day before you travel, and use specified trains.

Chiltern Railways (0990 165165) is offering £20 day tickets on the line between Marylebone and Birmingham Snow Hill. The journey takes about 30 minutes longer than from Euston, but saves £35 compared with the peak fare from there. From Warwick and Leamington Spa, the company will throw in a London Travelcard with the £20 day return to London.

The best deal of all is on Midland Mainline from Sheffield to St Pancras. The company is selling two, three or four seats for a total of £29, reducing the price of a day trip to as little as £7.25 per person (if four people travel together), compared with the standard "open" fare of up to £78. You must book three days in advance at Sheffield station, or five days ahead on 0990 125240. The offer does not apply on Saturdays, nor for journeys *from* London.

The lights are going on all over England, or at least in Lancashire and the West Midlands. Joining a lineage that includes Stanley Matthews and Frank Bruno, the pop group Eternal will switch on the Blackpool illuminations just before 9pm on 30 August.

The Radio One Roadshow will also be at the resort that day, and will make a special live broadcast from 8pm to 9pm. Half-a-million lamps and lasers will be used for the lights. They will consume nearly 1,000,000 units of electricity (at a cost of £60,000) before the switch-off on 3 November. The Blackpool tourist information line is 01253 21623.

In Walsall, the annual illuminations in the Arboretum start dazzling on 14 September and continue until 27 October. Call 01922 650000 for more details.

British Airways Express (0345 222111) has cut its return fare from Gatwick to Guernsey and Jersey to £74 (including tax). To qualify, you must book before 4 September, stay away at least one Saturday night but no longer than a month, and complete all travel before 30 September. The £74 fare applies only for flights from Monday to Thursday inclusive; weekend flights cost £87 return.

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For further details please call the **Travel Team** on **0171 293 2222**.

هكذا من الاصل

Sugar and spice and all things nice

Simon Calder visits Zanzibar, where gentle people go about their modest business – and moderation is the key

The interest value of any atlas declines quickly once you reach the gazetteer. But the butt-end of the alphabet is enlivened by three sharp syllables: Zan-zi-bar, so evocative a name that a dowdy old south-London pub has just changed its name from St Georges Tavern to Bar Zanzibar. The name belongs to an island that is well south even of Croydon. And it (the isle, not the pub) is perhaps the most entrancing place in the book.

All your desert-island fantasies come true as you approach Zanzibar. Indeed, all the fantasies you ever had about travel suddenly crowd around. The sea is preposterously aquamarine, the sand implausibly golden and the airport impossibly empty. Check the map in the in-flight magazine to make sure that you are not dreaming, and that there is indeed an island the size of the Isle of Man bolted on to the right-hand-side of East Africa – close enough to benefit from the richness of the continent and its people, far enough to have been regarded as a safe staging post by early colonists.

An empire was hardly worthy of the name if Zanzibar was not included as a conquest on the Imperial bedpost. Persians and Portuguese, Indians and Arabs all took turns at controlling the 20-by-50-mile patch of land poking out of the Indian Ocean. It was the Arabs who endowed the place with its sense of dreamy intoxication by starting the spice industry and bestowing the inevitable cliché of the Spice Island, assiduously milked by the tourist board.

Still, if your home smells as headily sweet as this, then you can forgive the marketing people anything. I visited Mr Madawa, a spice merchant who gives hands-on explanations of the wondrous fumes that waft randomly around the islands. As he slices a sliver of bark, the scent splashes deliciously into the heavy noon air. Then he takes you and a handful of aromas back to his modest home to take apart any preconceptions you may have about the unsophistication of African food. Lunch is labour-intensive, but then Mr Madawa has four wives. His team of spouses (or should that be "spice"?) conjure magical dishes from an island where few tricks are needed to grow effusive quantities of exotic tropical crops.

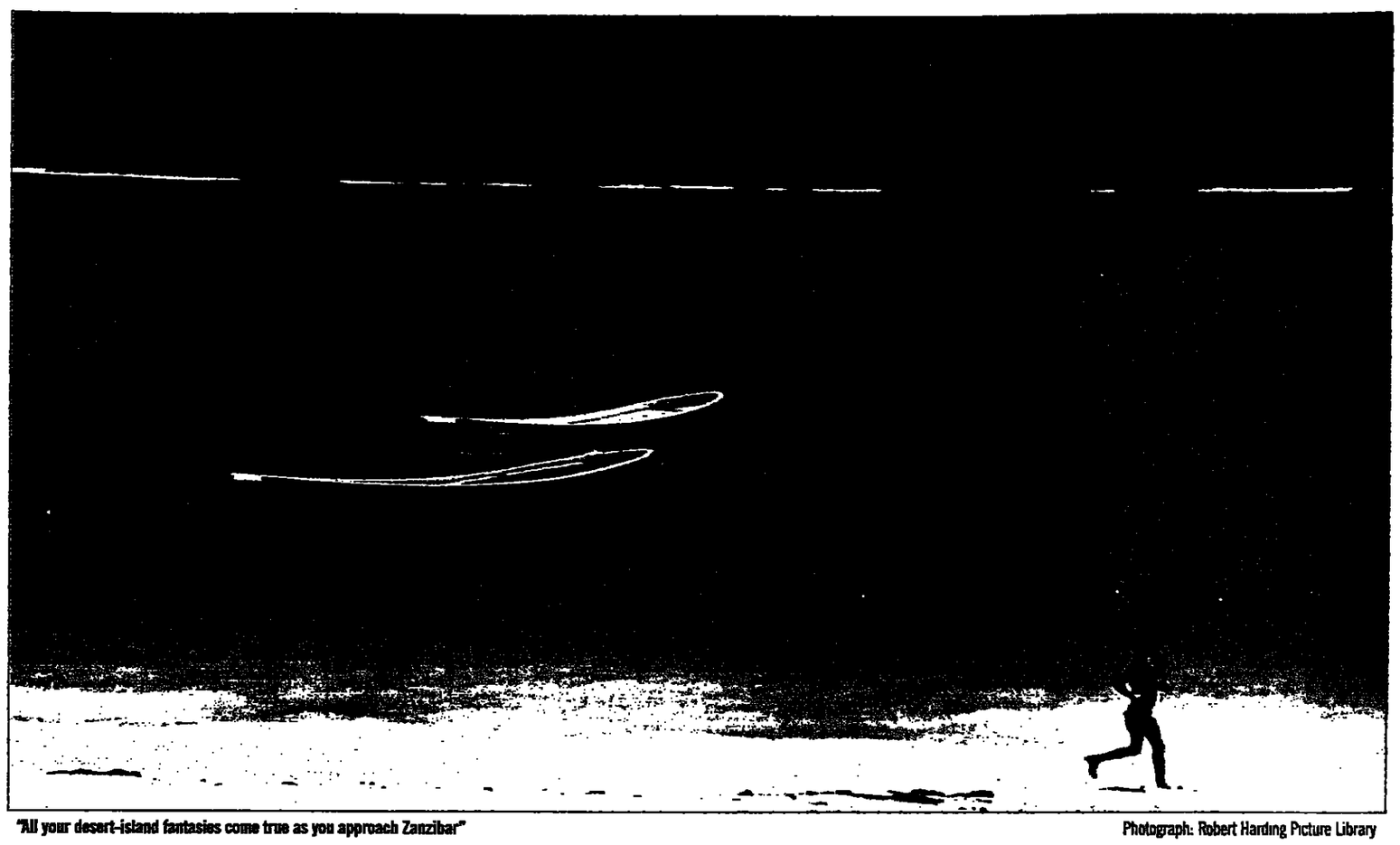
Mr Madawa has a plurality of wives because the brand of Islam that prevails on Zanzibar permits polygamy. Much of the social structure – as well as architecture – was imported from the most easterly Gulf state, Oman, in the last century. At one point, the Omani court moved 2,000 miles south to take advantage of the benign terrain and benevolent society.

British hegemony soon prevailed, adding another layer to the cultural veneer that makes Zanzibar so confusing. To confound yourself utterly, rent a bicycle from the thoroughly African market. It will probably be a Raleigh, based on an original idea from Nottingham. The plans, though, were long ago taken to India, where the upstanding Roadster flourished. This sturdy machine will take you through a maze of lanes as intricate as any Arab souk, until you reach the bleak block of flats where Freddie Mercury grew up.

The late, great Queen singer was born to a Shirazi family, of Iranian descent. Freddie Mercury was blessed with an upbringing on an island of plenty, where your neighbour was as likely to hail from Delhi as Dar Es Salaam. People go gently about their modest business in a climate where moderation is the key. Stress is merely something you put on the first syllable of Stone Town, the closest thing to a capital that Zanzibar possesses. As a shambles it is superlative, layer upon layer of humanity leaving its languid mark on the paraphernalia of government. The House of Wonders was the venue for the shortest war in history 100 years ago, when the British put down a little local difficulty in a little over half an hour. Now the House is a doddery old pile of quasi-Imperial clutter that looks as if it was under siege for 38 years, not minutes.

Most of Zanzibar is untroubled by urban life, and comprises a lolloping landscape where Mr Madawa's spices vie for light with arrogant palms. If you scrunched up the page of the atlas which deals with land use – all dark greens and deep reds, vivid blues and sandy yellows – then smoothed it out, the rumpled result would resemble rural Zanzibar. That spectrum coalesces at a single point at the tip of the island: the beach at Nungwi, where a placid village peeps out from the palms at a mile of virgin sand. The alphabet ends here – as does the traveller's quest for perfection.

You can reach Zanzibar via Muscat on Gulf Air, for around £600 through discount agents; or arrive by boat from Dar Es Salaam, having flown there on a cut-price ticket on an airline such as Ethiopian Airways for about £450 return; or take a cheap charter to Mombasa, connecting there with the Kenya Airways shuttle to Zanzibar. You will need a Tanzanian visa, obtainable relatively painlessly from the Tanzanian High Commission (0171-499 8951). The most sensible guide book is the *Bradt Guide to Zanzibar* by David Else, price £7.99.



"All your desert-island fantasies come true as you approach Zanzibar" Photograph: Robert Harding Picture Library

Was it just a silly season wind-up?

Continuing our monthly series, Jeremy Skidmore answers readers' travel queries

I understand the Greek government has given tour operators a rebate on airport tax – is that going to mean lower prices for packages next summer?

Not necessarily. The Greek government is only offering the rebate, which amounts to around £3.60 per passenger on departures from Greek airports, up to December 31. We have not been given any indication yet whether it will be continued into 1997. The Greek government has to make its mind up soon if prices for 1997 are going to come down. Ironically the current rebate is great news for operators, but won't benefit any customers going to Greece this year. The rebate comes far too late to be passed on to holidaymakers in any brochures and will just go straight into the pockets of the tour operators.

The ideal time to book summer holidays has been much discussed, but what about winter sports?

The winter brochures are already out and are booking well. My advice to anyone who wants a winter holiday, particularly skiing, is to book sooner rather than later because accommodation in some resorts is getting in short supply. Skiers tend to be sophisticated holidaymakers who know exactly which hotel and resort they want and book up when the brochures come out.

I've heard that travel agency staff are offered all kinds of bribes for booking clients with certain operators. How can I be sure of being offered what's right for me?

Some agencies are owned by tour operators and have, in the past, been given cash incentives to push the products of their parent companies. But this does not mean you will be sold something that is wrong for you. The two biggest operators, Thomson and Airtours, own the two largest travel agencies, Lunn Poly and Going Places respectively. Lunn Poly and Going Places make it clear that they recommend their own group's products but also promote a wide range of other companies and pledge not to sell an unsuitable holiday to their customers. This is probably a fair statement because the range of products in their shops is so wide that they can cater for most tastes. Elsewhere, all travel agents negotiate deals with certain tour operators. Even independents, which tend to sell a wider range of holidays than the multiples, cannot stock all the holidays on the market and are likely to have special deals with certain operators.

I've heard there's a new 18-30 airline but my travel agent doesn't know anything about it. Was it just a silly season wind up?

There is a new airline being launched in April 1997 by Flying Colours, the company which owns the youth specialist Club 18-30. The airline has been called, not surprisingly, Flying Colours Airlines and a lot of holidaymakers who travel with Club 18-30 next year will find themselves on the airline. Your travel agent may not know anything about the airline because it is not operating until next year, but the 1997 brochures are out and it is possible to make bookings now for next year.

I booked my winter cruise with Lunn Poly Direct in Coventry. I just learnt the office has been closed down. What happens next?

Firstly, don't worry: Lunn Poly has not gone bust and you will still be able to go on your winter cruise. To complement its shops, Lunn Poly had an office in Coventry which sold direct to the public over the telephone. Lunn Poly decided to close the Coventry office and concentrate sales through its shops.

If you have any queries about your cruise you can either go into a Lunn Poly shop and discuss them with a member of staff, or contact the retailer at its head office, Lunn Poly House, Clarendon Avenue, Leamington Spa, CV32 5PS.

WORLD DEPARTURES

Coast-to-coast across America now costs £149 one-way – if you are prepared to pause in Colorado Springs. This Rocky Mountain city is the hub for Western Pacific, a small airline that flies from Newark and Washington DC to six West Coast cities – including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. There are no advance purchase rules, and you may spend anything from 40 minutes to a year en route in Colorado Springs. Book on 01444 450311 or through an agent; some may agree to split the 15 per cent commission with you, cutting the fare to £139.

Are you a healthy adult, living in or around London, and want to do your bit to help the cause of travel medicine? If so, the Academic Unit of Travel Medicine and Vaccines wants to hear from you. The unit, based at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, is testing the effectiveness of a new Yellow Fever vaccine. In return for taking part in the programme, you get a free jab and a Certificate of Immunisation which is valid for 10 years. Call 0171-830 2999 if you meet the criteria – and, most important of all, have never had the Yellow Fever vaccine before.

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Flights and your rights

Following last week's article on airline delay, barrister Alan Matthews suggests that compensation could be due

Wendy Berliner's 53-hour delay on an Airtours flight back from Florida was described in these pages last week. Simon Calder's advice on what compensation she could expect was, as we like to say in my profession "with the greatest of respect", questionable. While Mr Calder's suggestion that she can do no more than claim on her insurance will please the travel industry, it does overlook legal avenues that may be open to her. My feeling is that if Ms Berliner and her fellow sufferers on that flight did claim against the airline they, like those on the equally disastrous Laker flight, might have a chance of obtaining damages.

Airtours' so-called "Fair Trading Agreement" contains an assertion that the company "cannot accept liability for any payment incurred... nor for any time lost on your holiday". Where someone has cut a coupon out of a brochure containing such conditions and booked for the flight that way, the clause will be part of that contract. However many, if not most, flights are booked and paid for over the telephone. A typical transaction will not involve any more than a discussion of the route, price and flight times. Travel agents seldom, if ever, say "and you accept the term that says you can't have any compensation if things go wrong" or even "the booking is subject to the airline's standard terms".

Once the customer has committed himself to paying for the flight the contract is complete and the airline cannot unilaterally introduce further terms, any more than the customer can.

Even for those people who did book in writing all may not be lost. The Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract Regulations, effective from 1995, prevent businesses from relying on unfair exemption clauses. These regulations have yet to be tested in the higher courts, but they seem designed to cover blanket statements disclaiming liability, such as the one that appears in Airtours' brochure. The Office of Fair Trading also has a power to seek a court order that such a clause is unlawful.

Some help for travellers comes from the Warsaw Convention, which governs international air traffic. Article 19 makes airlines liable for delay. Airlines try to counter this by claiming that their timetables do not constitute contractual terms.

If there were delays that were totally beyond the airline's control, such as fog, a claim for compensation would almost certainly fail. Mechanical faults, which caused Ms Berliner's delay, do not fall into this category.

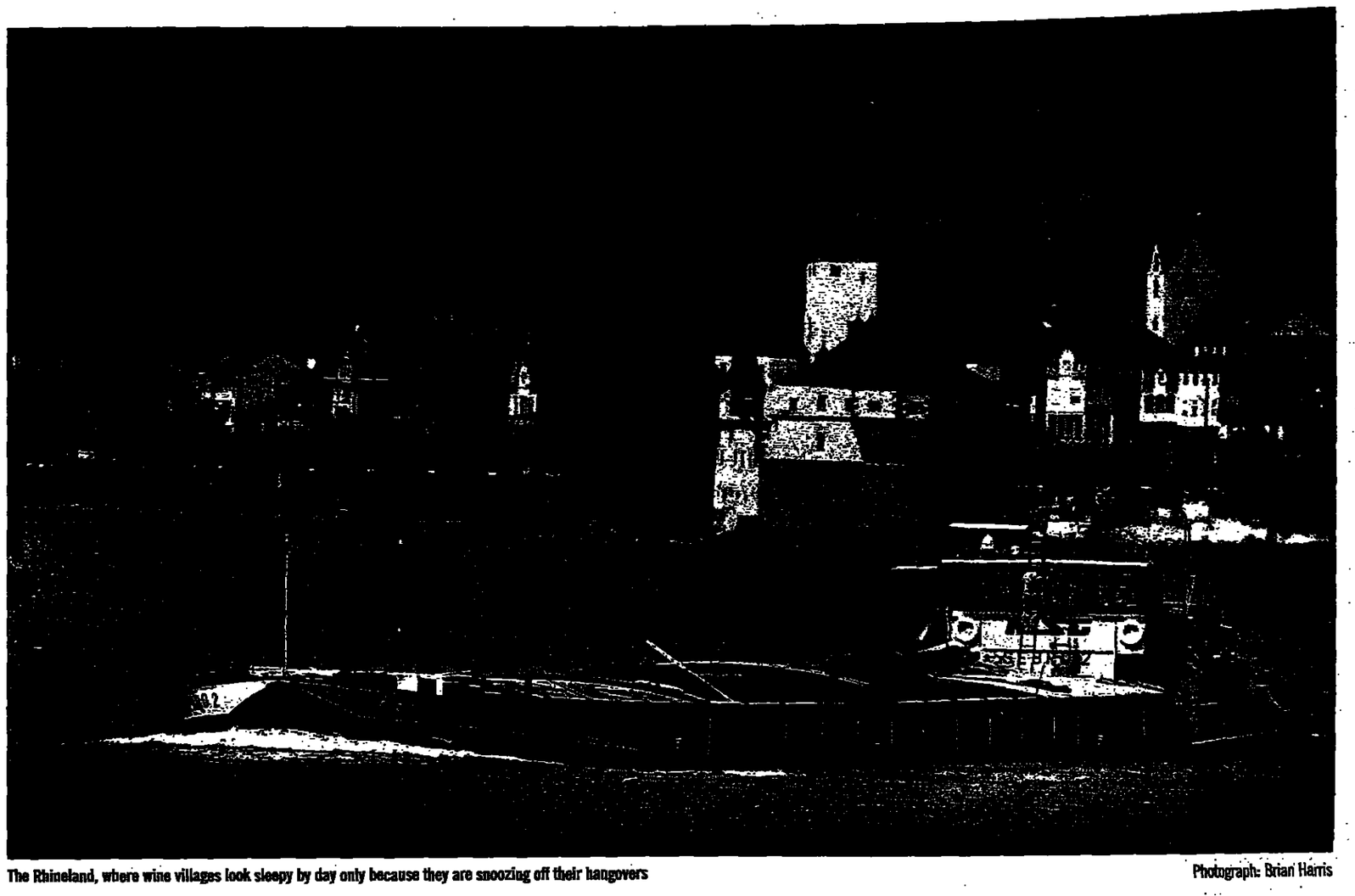
In a small claims court, where people are encouraged to present their own cases rather than instruct lawyers, I suspect a district judge would be keener to see that people receive fair compensation than to analyse the small print of either a brochure or the Warsaw Convention.

However, I equally suspect that if people like Ms Berliner showed that they were serious about taking action, Airtours would come up with a sensible offer of compensation. Both Airtours and Laker might be prepared to pay up to avoid the bad publicity and administrative disruption of defending hundreds of small claims.

THAT SUMMER

A relentlessly and uproariously convivial welcome

'I was eighteen years old, very easily impressed and took myself extremely seriously. During that summer I learnt seven new words for drunkenness'. Linda Cookson remembers Germany in 1973



The Rhineland, where wine villages look sleepy by day only because they are snoozing off their hangovers

Photograph: Brian Harris

August 1973. Gary Glitter was "Leader of the Gang" at the top of the British charts. The Watergate scandal was breaking. And I and my boyfriend of the time were spending the whole of that summer in Germany together, equipped with a Collins Mini Gem Deutsch-Englisch dictionary and a supply of tinned corned beef (in case we didn't like the food). We were doing a holiday job before going to college in October and it was the first time I had ever been out of the country. I was 18 years old, very easily impressed and took myself extremely seriously. The perfect profile for the innocent abroad.

We were working as translators for a wine company in the Rhineland. The bottling plant and company offices were in Burg Layen, a small village nestling snugly amid the ranks of vine terraces built back from the river Nahe. The area was filled with timbered, white-walled houses bearing paintings of bunches of grapes and beaming countrywomen (which I considered hugely tasteful at the time). And the air was sweet with alcohol. During that summer in Germany I learned seven new words for varieties of drunkenness. Sadly for my liver, it marked the beginning of the end of my hitherto puritanical aversion to wine-drinking.

Our job included translating promotional material. I learned all about the differences between Spatlese and Auslese, and between Beerenauslese and Trockenbeerenauslese – right through to defining the tooth-rotting sweetness of Eiswein. I learned to write things like "with an elegant bouquet" without laughing. But, above all, I got to grips with the important business of wine-sampling.

The neighbourhood was relentlessly and uproariously convivial. From village to village there were wine festivals every weekend. There were festivals to say an emotional farewell to the last vintage and to empty the barrels in readiness for the next. There were festivals to try out the new vintage, and compare it enthusiastically with those of previous years. And then there were the local "Kirmes" festivals – a particularly riotous set of celebrations, held in honour of each village's special saint. It was, if only in theory, a strongly Catholic area.

I soon learned that Rhineland wine villages looked sleepy by day only, because they were snoozing off their hangovers. Come nightfall, it would always be party time again. Whole villages were transformed into gypsy camps, blazing with fairy lights and crammed with sideshows, food stalls and a forest of beer and wine tents. Early on in the summer, at one of those food stalls, I had a further fatal taste of corruption – a paper tray of Currywurst (German sausage smothered in raw curry powder and a dollop of ketchup), which I embraced as the height of sophistication and attempted to reproduce subsequently at many a dinner party back home.

The corned beef never got eaten. We were too overwhelmed by hospitality, as people bombarded us with invitations to suppers of Sauerbraten (a delicious regional pot roast) and Streuselkuchen (a sort of cherry crumble cake). It was as a guest at one of those suppers that I ate my very first frozen pizza. It took a few more years before the UK caught on to that particular treat.

We were a local curiosity. Everybody in the village seemed to know about us – something I put down to personal charisma at the time. In truth, I now realise, we were unmissable: my boyfriend with his lion's mane of red hair and penchant for purple loons, myself in full and flowing pre-Raphaelite regalia topped and tailed with a cowboy hat and a pair of desert boots. At this point, the mini-skirt – by then definitely démodé back in England – had only just hit the Rhineland.

When I think back to that summer I remember it with huge affection. I remember the evening of our very first day at work, when the company boss took us to a Carole King concert in Frankfurt and we all held up lighted matches and sang "You Got a Friend". I remember betting on a horse at Baden-Baden on the assumption that age was a sign of experience, and being dumbfounded when my nag hobbled home last. I remember countless excursions, courtesy of workmates and their families, to mountains and castles and riverside beauty spots.

It was a great time. I arrived back in England in early October with a wine enthusiasm, a Currywurst addiction and a cigarette habit (born – I'm ashamed to say – of the discovery that you could put British 5p coins into the 1DM slot of German cigarette machines). I also had an embarrassingly large stash of Deutschmarks. We had been ludicrously well paid by English standards and no one had allowed us to spend any money. I bought the latest Leonard Cohen album, a copy of *The Little Prince* and a new pair of desert boots, and got ready for the business of being a student.

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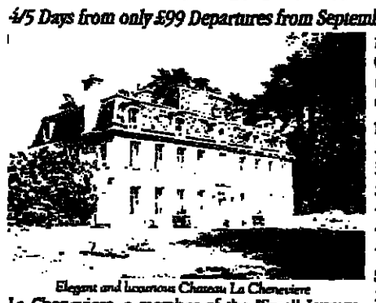

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SIMON CALDER

The trouble with Footprints

"Take only photographs, leave only footprints" is the sensitive traveller's motto. So 10 years ago, a small Scottish company decided "Footprint" would make an excellent name for a series of maps and guides. The series is now flourishing, and Footprint publishes the guides for the Sustrans National Cycle Network. A story of small business makes good.

Until this year, when someone else decided that "Footprint" would make a good imprint. Trade & Travel, publisher of the South American Handbook, has been looking for a change of image. James Dawson, managing director of Trade & Travel, said he wanted his series of guides to move "from being a low-profile, fringe series, to one at the heart of the guidebook business". Accordingly, his company is re-branding its series of travel guides as Footprint Handbooks. From now on, two sets of Footprints are vying for space on the bookshelves.

"We can't stop them," says Patrick Blashill, one of the partners of the original Footprint. "Although we registered the name with the Publishers' Association, this has no legal status. For that we'd need to register a trade mark which, for a small company like ours, would be enormously costly." Mr Blashill says the existence of two Footprint series "will lead to endless complications. When bookshops are asked to order Footprint guides, they won't know which company to deal with."

Mr Dawson disagrees: "We don't believe there will be any problems. These are two series which could not be more different in look or content, which sit on different shelves in the shops and serve different markets."

Following our tales last week about flight delays (see Flights and Your Rights, above), Peter May of St Albans writes with a tale of six hungry hours on the ground at Heathrow on a plane busily not flying to Bangkok. "Even so, the Thailand holiday was the most enjoyable I have ever had. I decided then always to go somewhere hot in February. But I now carry a bottle of mineral water and a pack of sandwiches on outbound long-haul flights, and have a meal in the airport on the inbound flight."

This proved of little help to Mr May in March this year, on a flight from Johannesburg to London on South African Airways. "We arrived over Heathrow on time at 7am, but were diverted to Manchester because of fog. We sat at Manchester awaiting refuelling and clearance for take-off. Unfortunately, the first slot was 15 minutes before the pilots' maximum hours were reached, so we were offloaded."

Things rapidly became worse, writes Mr May. "We had to wait 50 minutes before the right sized stairs could be found. Our baggage took a further two hours to be offloaded, and we – the economy classes – had then to wait for buses to take us to Heathrow. At Heathrow a rude traffic warden refused to let us disembark at the arrivals area, but made us go to departures – so we then had to struggle with our bags back to arrivals to get transport. We arrived 11 hours late, and all that time were served no food at all."

Diversions due to fog are unfortunately common, and Prestwick airport in Scotland was, indeed, designed with them in mind (it is rarely troubled by fog). But what is the longest distance an airline has bussed passengers when flying has proved impractical? With the Channel Tunnel working, it is now theoretically possible for people to be sent overland from anywhere in Europe. And has re-routing ever proved beneficial? Presumably one or two of the passengers on Mr May's flight were actually heading for Manchester, and were therefore glad of the diversion.

On Thursday, Scotland's scenery began to brighten the journey to work of London's commuters, as posters of the Highlands were introduced in train and tube stations. "Leaves you breathless", reads the slogan. "Rather like the air in London".

The London Tourist Board is upset at the slur, though I suspect the law would side with Scotland if a case ever came to court. The thought that this is the first round in a knocking campaign rather appeals. The Glasgow underground could be enlivened by a pictures of a monster-eyed bug, and the slogan "Hate those malevolent midges in Scotland? Come to London". Scots would promptly add the caveat "only because the exhaust fumes have killed them all off".

The poorer parts of Edinburgh, where *Trainspotting* (the film about drug abuse) was shot, could trade insults with some of the dodgier estates in south London. Meanwhile the tourist boards in Wales and Northern Ireland would sit back and enjoy the spectacle, ready to pick up all the punters put off by advertising that seems dangerously akin to the present Tory poster campaign.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

A healthy shade of green

Rose, Henry and Martin Village visit the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales

The venue

There are begonias, nasturtiums and lobelia growing between the tracks of the water-balanced railway that takes you up to this hi-tech Shangri-La hanging steeply on a Welsh hillside.

So forget any preconceptions you may have about home-spun "alternatives". The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), now 21 years old, has come of age and is a sophisticated shade of green. It aims to show how today's good life can be comfortable and attractive as well as eco-friendly.

If anything, it is all too comfortable for the likes of some Greens, who have criticised it for not making a political challenge to mass consumerism. "Yet we are aiming to be the first step into the environmental movement for the general public who are not already committed Greenies," says Paul Allen, of the 30-strong CAT co-operative.

That this leading visitor centre entertains and educates around 1,000 people a day without drawing on the national grid or adding to our rubbish and sewage disposal problems, is testimony enough to a dream made real.

The visitors

Martin Village, an art dealer and publisher, took his son Henry, 11, and daughter Rose, seven, to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth, Wales.

Rose: "I thought the compost toilet was funny. It didn't flush with water, so after you'd been to the toilet you had to put a shovel of sawdust into it.

The Mole Hole was all dark, and it got darker and darker until it led into a whole room, and I thought it was horrible at the entrance. But the good thing was all the animals you could see inside the glass displays, which light up when you press a button.

I liked one windmill where you could stand on the base, and it went round and round with the wind and you went round, too.

I thought the pigs were disgusting, but I liked the goat. I stroked his nose and touched his horns. I fed lettuce to the chickens.

I went in a maze with questions about how you travel to the shops and when you go on buses and stuff like that. I touched the compost made of poo, and it didn't look like poo.

I saw a play all about a bear and a man who was cutting down trees. The woodcutter said he was doing it for us because we need wood to make things like pencils and paper – but the bear got angry. And afterwards we got a little sunflower seed and I am going to plant it in our garden when I get home."

Henry: "This place made me consider things I don't normally think about, like the way we pollute the world and what solar and wind energy could do to help us all in the future. If people could make cars run by solar-powered batteries, there would be less bad air and my asthma might be better.

The train ride at the start takes you up on to another level, and it feels really good and gets you going for what you are about to experience.

The pump where you get water was good; we would have to fill up 30 buckets each in one day to get all the water we use. It made me think that people in Africa must have a hard time getting water.

I hadn't heard of all the different herbs in the garden; I tasted ginger mint, marjoram, Greek basil. Some of them – like the bronze fennel – tasted a bit off.

I thought that what the compost does is good, but it's not a very nice smell or sight. The adventure playground is good because it's got different areas for people under five and over five.

Rose Village examines the compost at the Centre for Alternative Technology

Photograph: Steve Peake

Overall, I found it was much more interesting than a normal museum, because you are having fun and learning at the same time. But you can't see it all in one go: you have to go at least twice."

Martin: "As an urban dweller I'm aware that I behave to my environment like a spoilt kid, using things and throwing them away, and I'd like to change that. This place makes me think in a more mature way.

I feel inspired here; it fills me with fantasies of the possible, like constructing the self-build house. This place has been created out of a seriously unfriendly environment and it is now something of great beauty. That imparts a therapeutic atmosphere. I take away with me a feeling of optimism and some sense of the Green gadgetry – like photovoltaic cells – now available.

The ideas of the Sixties and Seventies, then considered to be way out, are real here and now. And this place presents them with panache. They have demonstrated what can be done on the micro level, but to tackle the macro you have to talk in terms of politics. I would strongly urge our Ministers for Transport, Energy and the Environment to come here and stay – for a week at least."

The deal

The Centre for Alternative Technology is on the A487 north of Machynlleth, Powys, in Wales, and is open every day. Telephone: 01654 702400. Worldwide web site:http://www.foe.co.uk./CAT

Costs are "reasonable", Martin believes, at £13.50 for a family ticket, or £5.50 per adult and £2.50 per child (under-fives get in free); the centre offers up to 10 per cent off the entry price if you arrive by rail.

Food in the vegetarian restaurant ranges from £2 for a jacket potato and cheese, to around £3.50 for vegetable curry, ratatouille and rice or vegetable bake.

Access for the disabled includes parking near the restaurant. Some areas are hard going for babies' buggies.

The telephone box has a wind/solar-powered light.

Residential courses on topics such as self-build homes and organic gardening take place all the year round.

Toilets are clean and plentiful, some (including men's) with baby-changing facilities. Sewage is treated on site, mostly via reed beds; nutrients are reclaimed as compost. The waterless urinals use plant extracts to stay smell-free.

Brigid McConville

When you're feeling a little 11-o'clockish

Tony Kelly picnics near the house at Pooh Corner in the Ashdown Forest

"It's nearly 11 o'clock," said Maire. "Time for a little smackerel of something." So Maire and Tony and Jacqueline and Lee and Fiona and James and Jane, who were all feeling a little 11-o'clockish, found a Thoughtful Spot in the forest where they sat eating honey sandwiches and looking for sticks for the game that Maire was going to teach them.

This was the Ashdown Forest in east Sussex, otherwise known as Pooh Country; and I had joined a group of Winnie-the-Pooh fans on a day's "explore" of the places where Christopher Robin and his friends used to play.

James Linehan (almost five) had brought his mother along to share the fun; the rest of us, to my surprise, were grown-ups. Lee Turtle and Jacqueline Abbot were New Zealanders working in London and hoping to relive childhood memories; Fiona Spandler was a Methodist minister whose interest in Pooh stems from a Winnie-the-Pooh society at college.

"You'd be amazed how widespread the interest is," said our guide, Maire McQueeney, an energetic Irish-American who left the Bronx for Britain 24 years ago and now leads tours combining her two great loves, literature and walking. "People from Singapore will come all the way to England just for a Winnie-the-Pooh event."

We began in Hartfield, a Domesday village half way between East Grinstead and Tunbridge Wells. With the sun shining on its timber-framed houses, it looked the perfect postcard image of rural England. "For many Pooh fans around the world, Hartfield *is* England," said Maire. "It's the only place they ever see apart from London."

AA Milne had a house here, at Cotchford Farm; at weekends he went walking in the woods with his son Christopher Robin. Milne had already made his name in journalism and the theatre when he turned to writing children's stories in the Twenties, while his son was still a boy. From then on, Milne was known only for one thing; while Christopher Robin, who died in April this year, spent the rest of his life trying to live down his name. As for Winnie-the-Pooh, he was a Harrods teddy given to Christopher Robin on his first birthday and named Winnie after a Canadian bear from Winnipeg in London Zoo.

Playing Poohsticks in the Ashdown Forest

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

The books are set in a real landscape – and Milne wove local history and wildlife into his stories. Tigers and kangaroos in the forest may be a product of his imagination (like Pooh, they were based on Christopher Robin's own soft toys) but rabbits and owls are real enough, and even Piglet was a descendant of the wild boars which Henry VIII used to hunt here. As for Eeyore, well, Christopher Robin did have a real grey donkey called Jessica, which he used to ride into Hartfield to buy sweets.

After our "little something" we headed off to search for Rabbit's Hole, where Pooh became stuck for an entire week after eating too much. James found a sandy bank with a hole in it; the rest of us tried hard to convince ourselves that this was the real thing.

Near here is Pooh Bridge, the setting for Pooh's invention of the game Poohsticks. The wooden bridge has been carefully restored but still looks just as it did in EH Shepard's pictures of 1928. For most day-trippers, this is the limit of their Pooh experience. On the day I was there, Japanese tourists and parties of excited schoolchildren threw sticks into the water and eagerly snapped each other's pictures as we waited patiently for our turn to play.

After lunch it was time for another "expotition". First we came to the North Pole, where baby Roo learnt to swim and was rescued by Pooh with the "north pole" he had discovered. Then we climbed to Pooh Corner, where Eeyore lived in a house of sticks built by Piglet and Pooh.

Finally we reached Gills Lap (Galleon's Lap in the book) and a memorial stone to Milne and Shepard, "who captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world". Above here, at the very top of the forest, is the enchanted place where Christopher Robin said good-bye to Pooh at the end of *The House at Pooh Corner*.

Maire McQueeney's guided walks take place every Saturday in August. The morning walk leaves Hartfield war memorial at 10.05am and the afternoon walk leaves Piglet's car park on the B2026 at 2.30pm. Each walk costs £4.50 for adults, £1 for children. Details from Twentieth Century Walks (01273 607910). It is easy to get to Pooh Bridge independently, using a map bought from the Pooh Corner Shop on Hartfield High Street

A weekly round-up of summer outings for children

'ARE WE NEARLY THERE?'

On the trail of well-loved characters

Any fan of Wallace & Gromit will know that Wensleydale Cheese is Wallace's favourite. The Cheese Experience at the Wensleydale Creamery (01969 667664) in Hawes, North Yorkshire, is open from 10.30am to 3pm daily (gift shop open until 5pm). After a video show you can wander through the museum, see the cheese being made and fill up in the tasting room. The tour costs £2 for adults and £1.50 for children. Parking is free.

Through the looking-glass

If you're on the trail of Alice in Wonderland, visit Oxford where the author Lewis Carroll spent his days in academia as Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. You may find Alice's Shop on St Aldates on the twee side, but across the road is Christchurch College (01865 276150), where Dodgson studied. If you can make your way past the ranks of bulldogs (men in bowler hats, rather than canines), you will find it open to the public from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and from 11.30pm to 6pm on Sundays. Entry costs £3 for adults, £2 for children and £6 for a family ticket. From here, wander down to the river, past a field of rare cattle, and stroll back via the Botanical Gardens.

BeatrixPotterland

Fans of Mrs Tiggy Winkle and Peter Rabbit may like to visit BeatrixPotterland in Cumbria. If you're determined, or just very thin, you could squeeze your way into Hilltop in Ambleside (015394 36269), although at this time of year the farmhouse where the author lived is crowded out with tourists. Or, for another cramped experience, you could cross the lake to the World of Beatrix Potter (015394 88444) at Bowness-on-Windermere. If you prefer to escape the hordes of Flopsy Bunny lovers and get a more realistic taste of old-fashioned life in the Lake District, take yourself off to Townend at Troutbeck (015394 32628), a farmhouse that has been owned by one family for 300 years and is now run by the National Trust. (You may also like to dip into the church nearby, where a large stained-glass window was crafted by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones while he was on holiday in the area.) Townend is open from 1pm to 5pm (last admission 4.30pm). Entry costs £2.60 for adults, £1.30 for children. National Trust members get in free.

A journey with Paddington

In the paw prints of Paddington Bear is the London Toy and Model Museum (0171-402 5222) at Craven Hill near Paddington Station. There are five floors to explore, each of which is packed with exhibits and working models; children can also fill in worksheets and visit an activity room. Opening times are 10am to 5.30pm (last admission 4.30pm) Monday to Saturday, and from 11am to 5.30pm on Sundays and bank holidays. Adults £4.95, children £2.95 (under-fours free) and families £13.50.

Rhiannon Batten

gardening

Thumpingly wonderful plants

Anna Pavord gets away from the supermarkets of the garden world and visits a private nursery in Devon

Part of the great independent majority: Rodney Davey and Lynda Windsor at their nursery in Tytherleigh, Devon Photograph: Apex

My New Year's resolution this January was to shun supermarkets. It didn't reflect much self-denial on my part. I've always loathed them, and when we first came down to Dorset there weren't any here, anyway. That was one of the place's great attractions. Proper shops. One-off shop-fronts. Grocers who delivered.

Since the arrival of the supermarkets here, local shops have been shutting faster than you can say "Sunday opening". Consumer choice? Soon there won't be any. It'll be the supermarket or nothing, and goodbye to local produce that doesn't fit into their central buying system.

Tesco, Sainsbury's and Safeway may dominate on the food front, but fortunately they are making much slower progress with garden plants. According to the latest figures released by Mintel, the big multiples, such as Homebase and Texas, account for just 21 per cent of sales of what they call "garden product". That means plants, seeds and bulbs, as opposed to chemicals, tools or garden furniture.

It's a surprisingly big market, the garden produce one. It was worth £867m last year, more than twice as much as we spent on tools (£368m), chemicals (£301m) or garden buildings (£392m). But despite the rich pickings, diversity still rules. Nearly 800 private nurseries are listed in the current edition of *The Plant Finder* (Moorland Publishing Company, £12.99).

"So are you in it for the money?" I asked Rodney Davey and Lynda Windsor, who have their own nursery, RD Plants, at Tytherleigh in Devon. Their looks said it all. As long as you haven't got a bank manager breathing down your neck, children to feed or employees to pay, then you can get by. But the hours are long. Losses can be sudden and unforeseen. And you have to make most of your year's income in the three months of spring.

Why do they do it, you wonder? Because they love plants, they said, and were fed up with being offered weedy, small specimens, indifferently grown, which turned out, when they flowered, not to be what they were labelled. Rodney and Lynda thought they could do better. I don't know when they ever get any sleep, but they certainly grow thumpingly wonderful plants and all the kinds I like most: ferns, hellebores, wood anemones, arums, epimediums, iris, thalictrums, comfreys (including a showy one with gold variegated leaves called "Axminster Gold") and the white-flowered perennial stock.

Rodney is the propagator. Lynda organises the office, handles the customers and handwrites the catalogue. And she helped build the shade house, where their huge stock of precious, potted hellebores spends the summer. Nearly all their stock is in pots. What happens when you go away, I asked? "Oh, I don't go away," said Rodney, with quite a shocked look on his face. "Rodney can't go over the Devon border," explained Lynda. "He's on a piece of elastic which only stretches so far."

They built up the nursery gradually on a former smallholding, a run-down little bungalow with a barn, some Nissen huts and chicken houses. It's been a full-time business for the last four years. To get to the plants, you go through the office, where flowers of the hour are displayed in a corner. There was a stunning pan of magenta rhodohypoxis (*R. milloides* "Claret") there when I visited, the colour of the flowers brilliantly set-off against bright-green grassy foliage. Beside it was a most extraordinary anemone, with leaves as ruffled as a "Lollo Rossa" lettuce, and an old-fashioned French begonia, "Gloire de Lorraine", with waxy, polished bronze leaves and tight, double flowers of bright pink. Behind was a flourishing tree fern. Altogether rather an eclectic collection.

Working out how much to grow of any particular plant is the greatest headache, said Rodney. Because they just grow the plants they are intrigued by, they sometimes find themselves ahead of the trend. Plants of the moment are *Verbascum* "Helen Johnson", the oriental poppy "Patty's Plum" and any kind of oreganum.

What about the trendy plants of the future? Well, they said, anyone who sees *Cerinthe major* "Purpurascens" with its strange, grey, waxy foliage and drooping bracts of purplish, pinkish, greenish gunmetal colour, is going to want to pick one up. They were right there. I had been begging seed from a friend who had one in her garden that same week. Rodney and Lynda are going to raise about 800 of them.

And they have great hopes for a double-flowered anemone, *A. sylvestris* "Flore-Plena" which Rodney has patiently been increasing. This is a spring-flowering anemone, about 18in tall, with nodding white flowers sharply centred with a boss of yellow stamens. The leaves are deeply cut and the seed heads mature into great fluffy balls of cotton wool. It is equally happy in sun or in shade. It's an old-fashioned flower, known in this country since the 16th century.

Like all the best plantsmen, Rodney and Lynda have sharp eyes and are quick to sort out the sheep from the goats in a batch of plants raised from seed. They expect a lot from their plants. A stripy red-and-yellow dahlia has recently turned up in a batch of seed. They have also picked out rather a lovely balloon flower (platycodon) with blue veining on milk-white petals. "We could call it 'Varicose Veins'," says Lynda brightly, as we stand admiring the plant.

Rodney, who has spent most of his life in agriculture, used to grow exhibition vegetables as a hobby. Nothing, you might think, could be more different from the plants he's raising now. But to grow any plant well, you need to pay attention to the detail. "Not spreading yourself too thin" is the way he puts it. He likes time to water properly. There's no wholesale overhead spraying here. Each plant gets what he thinks it needs.

They have a wide list, biased towards plants for woodland conditions, which is where their own interests lie. They have about 30 different geraniums, including the beautiful *Geranium phaeum* "Samobor" which has leaves heavily marked with dark-chocolate blotches. They also had the handsome *Disporum sessile* "Variegatum", with sword-shaped leaves cleanly striped in white, and cream bell flowers in spring. "Much better than Solomon's Seal," says Rodney.

The 1997 plant list will be available early next year. For a copy, send an sae with four 2nd-class stamps to R D Plants, Homelea Farm, Tytherleigh, Axminster, Devon EX13 7BG. Open every day from March to September.

The serious business of flower pouches

By Anna McKane

What is the gardening trade to do when every patio is crammed with tubs, every pub festooned with huge hanging baskets, and there is a nagging worry that the market for plants in pots might be saturated? They have to think of something else to sell us. Grow-Bags worked well, so someone had the brainwave of hanging them on the wall.

Thus flower pouches were born, and reached their apogee earlier this month when the seed merchants Thompson & Morgan dished out an astonishing £75,000 in prizes for the best displays in them.

Urged on by the prospect of a first prize of £50,000, I decided to plant a flower pouch – a cross between a carrier bag and a Grow-Bag, with a stout handle to hang it from and slits at intervals down its length for plants to be inserted. It comes with a mixer to incorporate into the compost, which combines water-retaining granules and slow-release fertiliser.

My pouch certainly would not have won any prizes, although I admit that may well be partly my fault.

A good rule, of course, whether filling flower pouches, setting off fireworks or piloting light aircraft, is to follow the instructions. These specified soilless compost, but I couldn't bear not to use my own home-made, very heavy, mix. The result was that my pouch weighed so much that it was hard to lift on to the wall. The handle looked as though it might break (although it didn't) and the slits spread slightly open, making watering rather difficult.

I chose a combination of pale blue lobelias, mid-blue felicias, and pale-ink petunias. Unfortunately I bought these before reading the instructions, which recommend young plants or speed-plugs for pouches, and it was difficult to get my largish, well-rooted petunias through the slits. Speed-plugs would probably have established themselves far more quickly. The manufacturers do not tell you this, but it may be worth having a few extra plants in reserve in case one or two fail.

The pouch needs careful watering, and the instructions did not mention anything about not going away and leaving it in the care of teenage daughters. A flash past with a hose was not enough to make sure each plant was well watered, and some of the lobelia suffered as a result.

In spite of all that, it looks just about all right. The felicia, in particular, clings and spreads nicely around the bag, and the petunias are reliable. But I will not be rushing to show anyone photos of it, unlike the 4,500 people who sent pictures of theirs to enter the Thompson & Morgan competition. These were narrowed down to 100 finalists, who were all sent £100 and invited to bring their pouches to the firm's headquarters in Ipswich for the final.

And bring them they did. From as far afield as France, Ireland and the Scillies, the flower pouches were lovingly transported in the backs of cars and displayed in a huge marquee. This was a serious business: the firm laid on security guards in case anyone tried to sabotage a rival entry before the judging.

If we didn't already know it, the competition proved that there is no limit to the amount of effort and time amateur gardeners will put into their hobby. According to Thompson & Morgan, the prospect of the prizes did not seem so important to the finalists as showing off their own efforts and comparing them with everyone else's.

The winner was a tasteful column of peach-coloured, pendulous begonias; the second prize went to an arrangement of mauve, pink and silver petunias, viscaria and helichrysum.

Thompson & Morgan sold half a million pouches last year, and they expect to have sold many more this year. So hanging baskets, tubs, pots, window boxes and all the rest are not enough: there is a place in the world for flower pouches, although possibly not in my garden.

Flower pouches from Thompson & Morgan (01473 688821) cost £5.99 for three.

WEEKEND WORK

Cyclamen corms that have been resting can be started into growth again now in a greenhouse. Clean off all the old leaves, shake any loose soil off the corm and repot it in the smallest pot that it will fit into. Use John Innes No 1 compost or its equivalent and set the corm so that the top just shows above the compost. Spray the corm every day with tepid water. Do not bring the plant into the house until there are at least four to six flowers in bud.

Over the next month, take **cuttings of tender fuchsias and geraniums**. Choose strong, healthy shoots for geraniums and crop off the top four inches. Trim the cutting to a point immediately below a leaf joint, remove all mature leaves and any flower buds and pot them up in a mixture of peat and sand. Do not cover them.

Stem cuttings can be taken of hibiscus, hydrangea, kolkwitzia and perovskia (Russian sage). This last is a useful plant, like a tall shrubby catmint, which flowers from August to September.

CUTTINGS

The University of Oxford Botanic Garden is celebrating its 375th anniversary this year. Through the summer, a series of garden tours has highlighted different aspects of the work that goes on in the garden. The last one is on Monday and concentrates on the use of plants in medicine. The tour begins at 7pm underneath the Danby Arch in the Botanic Garden. Tickets cost £5, including wine. Check availability with Louise Allen on 01865 276920.

Suttons Seeds started 190 years ago in Reading, where John Sutton sold agricultural seed, corn and grasses. Now they fill 35 million packets of seeds each year for the amateur gardener. This weekend they are opening their trial grounds at Ipplepen, near Newton Abbot in Devon. There is no better way to compare the merits of plants than to see them growing side by side. Make notes ready for next year's seed order. The grounds (behind Fermoys Garden Centre on the A381 Newton Abbot-Totnes road) are open today and tomorrow from 10am to 4pm. Entrance is free, but Suttons would welcome donations for their charity of the year, the NSPCC.

Compost is a moral imperative for a certain kind of gardener. If you are one of them, head for the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth, Powys (see opposite), where a pioneering compost display shows high-fibre compost heaps made with plenty of paper and card. Other successful compost recipes at CAT include a DIY tyre wormery and a long-term woody waste pile.

Anna Pavord

gardening

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هكذا من الاصل

The drive towards popular share ownership appears to have ended and Sid may revert to the deposit account. If that happens we will have learnt nothing from the past 15 years

The last of the family silver has gone and the remaining pieces of the cutlery canteen have finally been sold. In fact, the last bit went only last month in the form of a lukewarm British Energy sell-off. The privatisation drive towards popular share ownership appears to have ended at last.

So was that it? Should we all now resign ourselves to the excitement of the building society deposit account and an occasional foray into a grey cash box locked for five years, known as a Tessa?

In my view the answer is no, but there is no denying that the atmosphere has changed. Gone is the drive to popular individual and direct share ownership. In its place I sense a more pragmatic view in the late, nervous Nineties.

Instead of "Sid" being hectored on the joys of share ownership, he now faces a new problem: if someone has taken over your privatisation company, what do you do with the money? Buy another stock? Probably not, it is far too risky.

Instead, Sid is more likely to revert to the deposit account. If that happens then we will have learnt nothing from the last 15 years. Two per cent in a building society with 2.2 per cent inflation means that yet again we are losing money.

Now is the time for the mutual funds to rise up and help the cause of greater investor understanding and wealth creation. Unit and investment trusts should step in and help Sid with clear, competitive products, free from technical jargon and supported by sensible information and direction. If not, then all the opportunities of the popular share ownership initiative will have all been a wasted experiment.

But is direct share ownership dead? Was the Thatcher privatisation campaign – actually started by Labour in 1977 when the first tranche of BP was sold off – just a jolly bun-fight for Sid and the stockbrokers? Again, in my view, no. Direct share ownership will still continue to develop, but this time in a different form.

Next year we will be getting used to another ugly City term – de-mutualisation. This negative and uncreative-sounding term will positively effect many millions of us. Some of the largest building societies hand out their shares to members in 1997.

Over the next few years many will receive shares in floating building societies and

JUSTIN URQUHART-STEWART
INVESTMENTS

insurance companies and, unfortunately, like the Sids before them, many will either just sell the shares swiftly or hide them in the drawer. I hope that this time our industry can take the opportunity to help savers develop their knowledge and understanding of investing for their future.

This is not all. Popular capitalism has other outposts which are still showing signs not just of survival but of growth and development. One area that is growing with greater vigour is that of employee share ownership. These days there are over 2,400 companies with some form of share ownership scheme.

Unfortunately, it is usually the schemes for large felines that hit the headlines but behind these, the majority of these firms issue stock to the workers of Britain on the scale of a small privatisation each year.

Cynics would say that these are just short-term share perks which are sold off swiftly to pay for the holiday. This patronising view is not true. Many beneficiaries of such schemes carefully husband their shares and shelter them in personal equity plans for a longer-term investment. The recent initiative from Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister, to reduce the minimum time-scales of the corporate save-as-you-earn schemes from three years will add further impetus to this growing area.

This underrated scheme should be highlighted far more. For once, all employees who have access to such a scheme can be assured of some benefit, if only from the tax-free element of the savings scheme.

A further area of frenetic growth is in investment clubs. Here, from a very small level we have seen a mushrooming in the number of people interested in setting up and joining clubs to learn about investment and, heaven forbid, even enjoying it.

This has to be the best way for investors to learn about the peaks and pitfalls of direct stock market investment in a low-risk and responsible manner. And you don't even have to own an anorak. All over the country, private rooms over public bars are filled with earnest discussion over share values and investment opportunities.

So, as privatisations peter out it is not true that popular share ownership is dead, or even dying. But what is more important is that we should now be entering a new era of popular investment.

Why? Because the increasing pressure on us all to take on more responsibilities for ourselves leaves us little choice. As the state retreats we must take every opportunity to learn how to protect ourselves. Popular capitalism may have been fun for some while it lasted, but popular investment will be a necessity while we last.

Justin Urquhart-Stewart is business planning director at Barclays Stockbrokers

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The car insurance price war is fizzling out

Companies say competition has driven premiums too low. Now they are starting to rise, writes Tony Lyons

Good times may be coming to an end for car drivers if the insurance companies have their way. They claim that severe competition has driven premiums too low and cite the recent collapse of Paramount Insurance, a Watford company with some 40,000 policyholders, as an example.

Although there were a number of reasons for the collapse of Paramount, including its failure to recoup a large debt from an associated firm, it had a very aggressive business policy that included matching the rate offered by any other company. This price matching led to unrealistically low premiums.

Paramount appears to be the first motor insurance company to go to the wall since Vehicle and General over 25 years ago, when more than 1 million motorists risked being left without cover.

Perhaps one should not be too surprised that after two years of falling motor insurance premiums most companies are now trying to talk up rates.

The average motorist driving a typical family car with a full no-claims discount is today paying between 15 per cent and 25 per cent less than in 1993.

Severe competition, including the impact of telephone-based direct insurers nibbling away at broker business, have contributed to the fall in rates.

The problem for insurers is that profits are showing signs of tailing off. Results for 1995 were good, but the writing was on the wall. Already this year Direct Line has reported a sharp fall in profits for the first quarter of the year, indicating that the company's headlong growth, which means it now has more than 2 million motorists on its books, is tailing off at last.

Across the board, whether selling direct or through insurance brokers, most companies are publicly claiming that insurance rates for the private motorist will have to go up.

General Accident was the first of the large insurers to make a move, introducing a 4 per cent increase in premiums last April. This month it is increasing premiums by another 4 per cent. "We are not going to sacrifice profit for growth," a spokesman says.

Other insurance companies are levying less painful rises, for the time being at least. Cornhill Insurance – the company that insured the van wrecked by a jet plane crash in west London this week – will be increasing its motor premiums by 1-2 per cent in September. This is likely to be a growing trend.

Despite the wish to push up premiums, a fiercely competitive market place means companies are still adopting a cautious "after you" policy. They know a volatile market place means people are far more prepared to look for a cheaper alternative.

What's the damage? The cost of car insurance is rising after two years of falling premiums. Drivers should look around for price and quality

Also, pressure from insurance brokers, which were losing a lot of business, has led to the traditional insurance companies fighting back with premium rates just as good or even lower than the direct insurers.

In part, premiums still face downward pressure because of a reduction in crime-related claims. Joy riding and stealing cars are less of a problem than before, while theft from vehicles has declined by 2 or 3 per cent in the past year. Better inner-city security with remote control cameras has also helped this trend.

Insurers even benefited from the recent car sales recession. Car prices did not increase while competition also kept down the costs of repair parts and labour.

Now all this is coming to an end. Car prices have started to rise again in the wake of buoyant sales figures over the past two months. Repair costs are likely to follow suit.

In addition, this autumn is likely to see the delayed introduction of the Ogden Tables, used by courts to assess claims in third-party motor injury cases. Through complicated formulae based on the life expectancy of the injured party, they will take the lottery out of motor injury compensation cases. However, all the insurers expect a big increase in the sums they will have to pay out in claims.

But not all is bleak for the motorist. The Co-operative Insurance Society, for example, which cut its motor premiums by 12 per cent last October, has promised to maintain its current rates until October 1997. "As a co-operative, we have strong reserves," says Bill Webb, CIS deputy chief general manager. "Our experience with claims has been better than we were expecting and the benefits are being returned to our customers."

The market will remain fiercely competitive for some time yet. Some of the direct insurers, for example, have tele-sales staff who work on a quota system. This means that near the end of the day, if they have not filled their quota, they are quite prepared to offer a lower premium to motorists than the prices quoted earlier in the day.

Car drivers should take advantage of the situation by looking around for keen prices and quality of services. But bearing in mind the experience of the Paramount policyholders, they should make sure that the insurance company they are looking at has strong reserves or a wealthy parent.

They should also take account of any loyalty bonuses being offered, even if premiums are being increased. For example, many of the established insurance companies offer discounts of up to 25 per cent of the first month's premium, or a similar cash-back for annual premiums, to policyholders who have not made a claim when their policies come up for renewal. Motorists can expect to see further inducements from their insurance companies.

Another point to remember is that insurers are far more prepared to "cherry-pick" good clients. If you are a pillar of the community who garages the family Ford Fiesta every night and only drives on Sundays, there is a insurer waiting to offer you cheap rates. Conversely, Ferrari-driving teenagers may find cover a wee bit more expensive.

Overall, if the motor insurers can get their way, then premiums will rise. As profits from car insurance begin to decline, the choice is to increase premiums, leave the market place or merge to get costs down. The recent merger of Royal and Sun Alliance could be just the first.

Motorists can take comfort from the fact that the premium war so keenly fought by insurers now means that a price-sensitive public will not easily return to the days when every renewal meant another hike in costs.

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Latin America: still shaky after all these years

Are the days of political instability, protectionism and hyper-inflation over? Alison Eadie considers the continent's emerging markets

Emerging markets do not emerge in a smooth progression, eventually taking their place among developed nations. The history of Latin America demonstrates the pitfalls that can lie on the way.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Argentina was one of the world's richest nations, at one stage ranking fourth, ahead of Germany. Its relative decline has been precipitous, proving that more than a stock exchange is needed to make a successful emerging market. Strong domestic savings, fiscal and political stability and the encouragement of exports help.

Instead, Argentina and most other Latin American countries have had three decades of protectionism, political instability and hyper-inflation, which destroyed domestic savings and rendered them vulnerable to the whims of foreign capital flows. Only last year, Mexico's vulnerability was all too evident.

In recent years most Latin American countries appear to have got to grips with their problems. Chile, for example, is now heralded as the Singapore of Latin America. It produced gross domestic product growth of 8.5 per cent last year and is on course for 7 per cent this year.

It has a savings rate of 27 per cent, while private pension funds account for 40 per cent of GDP and 10 per cent of the stock market. It has privatised industries, liberalised trade and, like Singapore, is investing aggressively in its neighbours.

The country has also made an uneasy transition to democracy, although reform began under General Pinochet's dictatorship.

As one of the least naturally rich countries of the region, with copper and not much else, the Chilean model is encouraging to the rest.

Argentina instituted economic reforms some six years ago and already has inflation licked, at an expected 1.1 per cent this year. Peru, which has yet to embrace democracy, is similarly on track.

Brazil is still hampered by vested political interests, but the growth potential is there. And Mexico, after suffering the pain of devaluation following the débâcle of 1995, is expected to enjoy corporate earnings growth next year, despite GDP growth being held back by the debt overhang.

So is this a good time to invest in Latin America? Fund managers are divided.

Foreign & Colonial, which helped finance the building of Latin American railroads in the 1880s, believes so and is "overweight" in investments in the region.

Emily McLaughlin, director of the Latin American desk at F&C, describes the region as "under-valued, under-owned and under-loved". Despite the choppiness of stock markets, projected 12-month returns look very attractive, she says. On fundamental grounds there is plenty of justification in being overweight, F&C believes, although there are short-term risks linked to wobbles on Wall Street.

Templeton, another fund manager, has been buying heavily over the past year, particularly in Argentina and Brazil.

Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust had 22 per cent of assets in Latin America a year ago, and now has 32 per cent after converting cash into stocks. Douglas Adams, marketing director, says the stock-picking approach has turned up a greater number of bargains in the region than elsewhere in the world.

By contrast, James Hancocks, manager of Guinness Flight's Emerging Markets Fund, prefers Eastern Europe and South East Asia. He sees Latin America as high risk because of uncertainty over economic growth and corporate earnings and is "underweight" in the region overall. However, he likes Chile and Brazil, where he is fully weighted.

Mercury, another top manager, is also underweight, while Morgan Grenfell is neutral.

Differences of opinion over individual countries are more pronounced than differences over the region as a whole. Templeton avoids direct investment in Chile because of capital gains tax problems, preferring to invest via companies doing business there or via New York.

At Guinness Flight, Mr Hancocks rates Chile as particularly attractive now that interest rates have probably peaked. Its stock market has fallen this year, but has been a safe haven in comparison with the Wall Street-inspired jitters in Argentina and Mexico in recent weeks.

Morgan Grenfell is underweight in Argentina because of its sensitivity to the US – the peso has a one-to-one relationship with the US dollar. But the company believes Mexico deserves credit for taking its medicine in the past 18 months, getting inflation down and exports up.

F&C believes investors have not appreciated the success of the reform programme so far and Argentina's improved risk profile. The only agreement between fund managers is on Brazil. Although it has yet to develop the fiscal policies it needs, its huge potential means managers love it.

Investors wanting exposure to Latin America can choose lower-risk global funds or regional unit and investment trusts run by F&C, Templeton, Morgan Grenfell, Save & Prosper, Old Mutual and more.

Going further up the risk scale there are a few single country funds. Genesis runs a Chile investment trust whose shares have risen 136 per cent over the past three years. F&C's Brazilian Smaller Companies investment trust has fared less well, rising 24 per cent.

F&C also manages European unit trusts dedicated to Argentina, Brazil and Mexico.

The smaller Latin American economies do not feature much in portfolios as yet. Peru is most favoured as it has instituted economic reforms, is growing strongly and building up domestic pension funds.

Colombia, unlike its neighbours, has never defaulted on its debt but suffers an image problem. Its stock market is cheap for those prepared to take the risk. Venezuela is unpopular as it has relied heavily on its oil and is too state-dominated.

Further down the track lie Ecuador, Bolivia – the poorest Latin American country but trying its hand at privatisation – and one day perhaps, Cuba.

The Buenos Aires stock exchange: Opinions are divided about whether now is a good time to invest Photograph: PowerStock

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Norwich Union is cutting 10 per cent off the cost of home insurance for all motorists who already have car insurance with the company. Call your broker for details.

Sun Life is relaunching its Education Expenses Scheme in conjunction with Royal Bank of Scotland. The scheme offers unsecured loans of up to £20,000, repaid with a flexible endowment. Loans up to £50,000 are available secured on the client's property. Interest rates are 4.5 per cent over base. Details from RBS branches.

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	Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
MORTGAGES						
Fixed rates						
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.20 for 1 year	85	0.75%	—	1st 5 yrs:7.04% of sum repaid
West Bromwich BS	0121 525 7070	6.55 to 1/11/99	85	£295	£300 cash rebate	1st 6 yrs: 6% of advance
FirstMortgage BS	0800 080088	7.40 to 1/8/01	90	£275	—	To 1/8/02: 5% of advance
Variable rates						
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.95 for 1 year	90			1st 5 yrs: discount reclaimed
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.60% to 1/10/98	90	—		To 30/9/01: discount reclaimed
Abbey National	0800 555100	5.74 to 31/8/01	95	—	Refund vain fee	To 31/8/02: Ind determined
First time buyers fixed rates						
Bristol & West BS	0800 608088	0.95 to 30/6/97	90	£275	—	To 30/6/01: 8/6 mths interst
Market Haboro' BS	01858 463244	4.49 to 1/7/98	90	£250	Unemployment ins	To 1/7/00: 3 mths interest
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	7.49 to 1/8/01	95	£295		1st 6yrs: 5% of sum repaid
First time buyers variable rates						
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/7/97	90	—	—	To 30/6/01: discount reclmd
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	4.24% to 1/8/99	95	£295	—	1st 7 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Halifax BS	0800 101110	5.43 to 30/9/01	90	—	£300 & free vain	To 30/9/03: 1-4% of advance

PERSONAL LOANS	Telephone	APR		Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years) With insurance	Without insurance
Unsecured					
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	13.90E		£112.86	£101.33
Alliance & Leicester	0116 262 6262	14.80		£114.93	£102.36
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.90		£115.82	£102.49
Secured (second charge)				**Max LTV Advance**	**Term**
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.50	Neg	£3K - £15K	6 mths to 25 years
Royal B of Scotland	0131 523 7023	8.70	70%	£2.5K-£100K	3 years to retirement
Barclays Bank	0800 000929	9.3/9.6	80%	£10K-75K	5 to 25 years

OVERDRAFTS	Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Authorised APR	Unauthorised % pm	Unauthorised APR
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76	9.5	2.18	29.5
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	9.5	2.20	29.8
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.94	11.9	2.18	29.5

CREDIT CARDS	Telephone	Card Type	Min Income	Rate % pm	APR %	Annual Fee	Int. free period
Standard							
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.8958	11.20	nil	0 days
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa		1.00	14.00	£12	56 days
People's Bank Conn	0500 551055	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.13	14.40	nil	56 days
Gold cards							
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.4792	10.32	£120	46 days
Royal B of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05N	14.50N	£35	46 days
People's Bank Conn	0500 551055	MaterCard/Visa	£20,000	1.13	14.40	nil	56 days

STORE CARDS	Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	APR	Payment by other methods % pm	APR
John Lewis	in store	—	—	1.39	18.00
Marks and Spencer	01244 681681	1.87	24.80	1.97	26.30
Sears	in store	1.94	25.90	2.20	29.80

APR Annualised percentage rate. B+C Buildings and Contents Insurance LTV Loan to value ASU Accident, sickness and unemployment
E Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years.
N Introductory rate for a limited period.

All rates subject to change without notice. *Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677* *15 August 1996*

Best savings rates

	Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
INSTANT ACCESS						
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.50	Year
Sun Banking Corp	*01438 744505*	*Liquidity*	*Instant*	*£25,000*	*5.00*	*Year*
Skipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	5.15	Year
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£50,000	5.75	Year
INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS						
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	First Class Access	Postal	£1,000	4.90	Year
Alliance & Leic BS	0645 645660	Instant Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Acess Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.85	Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Acess Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05	Year
NOTICE ACCOUNTS						
Chelsea BS	0800 132351	Post-tel 20 Day	20 day P	£5,000	6.05	Year
Cheltenham & Gloucester	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£100	5.50	Year
First National BS	*0800 558844*	*90 Day Notice*	*90 day P*	*£10,000*	*6.20*	*Year*
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Mutual Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25	Year
MONEYBUILDER ACCOUNTS						
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,560	5.00	Month
Halifax BS	01422 335333	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10,000	4.00	Quarter
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£10,000	4.35	Year
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£25,000	4.65	Year
FIXED RATE BONDS						
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	Fixed Rate Bond	1/8/97	£5,000	6.25F	Year
Cheshire BS	0800 243278	Fixed Rate Bond	31/12/98	£5,000	6.75F	Year
Stroud & Swindon BS	0345 252423	Fixed Rate Bond	1/7/99	£1,000	7.35F	Year
Britannia BS	0800 132304	High Income Bond	1/10/2001	£50,000	7.75F	Year
FIRST TESSAS						
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£8,575	7.50F	Year
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£5,000	7.45F	Year
Birmingham Midshires	0645 720721		5 years	£1,000	7.00	Year
Principality BS	01222 344188		5 years	£500	7.00	Year
FOLLOW-ON TESSAS						
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£9,000	7.50F	Year
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£5,000	7.45F	Year
Birmingham Midshires	0645 720721		5 years	£1,000	7.00	Year
Cheltenham & Gloucester	0800 717505		5 years	£9,000	7.00	Year
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)						
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		1 year	£5,000	4.60FN	Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007		2 years	£3,000	5.50FN	Year
Premium Life	0800 838020		3 years	£50,000	5.90FN	Year
ITT London & Edinburgh	01903 820820		4 years	£3,000	6.20FN	Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007		5 years	£3,000	6.50FN	Year
OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)						
Newcastle Bank Gibraltar	00 350 76168	Nova Access	Instant	£25,000	6.30	Year
Newcastle Bank Gibraltar	00 350 76168	Nova Ninety	90 Day	£55,000	6.50	Year
Britannia International	01624 628512	2 Year Bond	31/7/98	£5,000	7.00F	Year
Nothern Rock, Guern	01481 714600	Millennium Bond	1/1/00	£10,000	7.50F	Year
NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (gross)						
Investment Accounts			1 month	£20	4.75	Year
				£500	5.25	Year
				£25,000	5.50	Year
Income Bonds			3 months	£2,000	6.00	Month
				£25,000	6.25	Month
Capital Bond		Series J	5 years	£100	6.65F	Maturity
First Option Bonds			12 months	£1,000	6.00F	Year
				£20,000	6.25F	Year
Pensioner's G'teed Income Bond		Series 3	5 year	£500	7.00F	Month
NS Certificates (tax-free)		43nd issue	5 year	£100	5.35F	Maturity
		9th Index linked	5 year	£100	2.50+rpi	Maturity
Children's Bond		Issue H	5 year	£25	6.75F	Maturity

P- post only F fixed rate
N net rate A All withdrawals subject at 30 day loss of interest
All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: *MONEYFACTS 01692 500677.* *15 August 1996*

FEAR OF FINANCE

Nic Cicutti

Call me a cynic if you like, but I am completely underwhelmed by the Halifax Building Society's proposal to first-time buyers that they insure themselves against negative equity.

You may have heard about the scheme. It was launched this week to assorted fanfares and drum rolls. Not surprisingly described by the Halifax as providing "future peace of mind", it is designed to tempt first-time buyers – that precious commodity – into the market.

In return for an upfront payment, the society promises that should you wish to move home at any time between five and ten years of starting your mortgage, it will make up the difference if the house is sold for less than the original loan.

On a typical £50,000 loan, based on 95 per cent of a home's value, the fee would be £763, which is added to the total mortgage. But there are snags.

First, you cannot simply be looking to pull out of the housing market, you must buy another house. Second, you must be prepared to take out another Halifax mortgage, even if it is not the cheapest. Third, you must take out compulsory property insurance with the Halifax, when it is not likely to be the cheapest option.

You also have to go through a set of hoops, including trying to sell the property yourself for three months, before the Halifax takes it off your hands. Try telling that to the people next up the chain.

In any case, what the Halifax forgets to mention is that if, as is likely, you add the insurance cost to your mortgage, for a typical 25-year repayment term, you will be paying £2,000 for such cover after interest.

The society also conveniently forgets that for most people it is not just negative equity that stops them moving, but insufficient equity.

That is, in order to move home, borrowers rely on the surplus from the sale of their old property to fund estate agents' and legal fees, plus removal expenses. This is traditionally estimated at about 10 per cent of a home's value.

Of course, it is possible that anyone desperately wanting to move will fund it out of savings or inheritance.

But it is more likely that they will simply put their proposed move on hold, as hundreds of thousands of borrowers trapped by a combination of negative and insufficient equity have already done. In which case the insurance won't be any use at all.

Finally, the Halifax ignores the very real difference between 1988 and today. Then, after several years of meteoric rises, house prices plummeted and stayed low because of the economic recession. Now, despite the marginal increases seen in recent months, they remain lower than at the height of the boom. They are likely to edge up over the next few years, meaning that even if there is another housing recession, they have less far to fall.

I'm all in favour of first-time buyers entering the market if they want to. I am even more in favour of societies like the Halifax, which generally has an excellent reputation, offering succulent deals to tempt people back in.

What I am not in favour of is of mortgage lenders treating prospective customers like morons. In this instance, I believe the Halifax has done just that. The society should stop, before we morons take our custom elsewhere.

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pick of the week

CINEMA

Dead Man *(above)* Jim Jarmusch's [illegible] is a low-key, troublesome affair about [illegible] suming clerk who finds himself on the [illegible] funereal pace will either drive you out of [illegible] or you will succumb to its hypnotic rhythms. **The Crossing Guard** Sean Penn's second [illegible] writer/director is an impressive exploration of a grief-stricken man hunting down the drunk driver who killed his daughter. Jack Nicholson is that man, rising above the vacuous gloss of his recent work to give a painfully committed performance. **Nick of Time** Johnny Depp once again gives his impression of a startled fawn caught in the headlights in this passable thriller. He plays a reluctant hit-man who's told to kill the Governor of California, or his daughter gets it.

THEATRE

The Herbal Bed/The Learned Ladies/The Comedy of Errors Peter Whelan's medicine and mendacity drama and comedies from Molière and Shakespeare, with Steven Pimlott's sprightly *The Learned Ladies* and Tim Supple's seriously witty *The Comedy of Errors*. *RSC, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon*
Shining Souls and **The Architect** Ian Brown in Chris Hannan's hilarious new play, while Philip Howard revives his hit production of David Greig's *The Architect*. *Traverse Theatre, Cambridge Street, Edinburgh, to 31 Aug*
John Gabriel Borkman Vanessa Redgrave *(above)*, Eileen Atkins and Paul Scofield give performances of ice and fire in Richard Eyre's production. *National Theatre, South Bank, London*

EXHIBITIONS

Paresh Maity The recently [illegible] showcases this 31-year-old [illegible] whose roots reach back to the [illegible] watercolour landscape artists [illegible] more abstract, however [illegible] prevalent aspects of Indian art [illegible] *North Audley Street, London W1* [illegible]
Jamming Gears To celebrate the Serpentine's forthcoming redevelopment [illegible] tea house, Richard Wilson takes the [illegible] *Serpentine Gallery, London* [illegible]
Velázquez in Seville *(above)* A [illegible] Scottish show[illegible]ing of the influential Hispanic master. Highlights include the National Gallery's own [illegible] *ing Eggs. National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh, to 20th Oct*

POP

[illegible]

DANCE

White Oak Dance Project Mikhail Baryshnikov *(above)* brings this strong-spirited and original [illegible] to London with a programme of selected [illegible] works including pieces by Merce Cunningham, Mark Morris and Kraig Patterson. *London Coliseum, London WC2, 20-24 Aug*
Mark Morris Dance Company A specially choreographed version of Gluck's dramatic opera *Orfeo ed Euridice*. This eagerly awaited production features the acclaimed counter-tenor Michael [illegible] as the mythical hero. *Edinburgh Festival Theatre, Nicolson Street, to 20 Aug*
Radical Graham Martha Graham's dance group celebrates the choreography of Martha Graham between the years of 1918 and 1948. *Edinburgh Playhouse, Greenside Place, 18-21 Aug*

Arts and entertainment listings

FILM

LES APPRENTIS (15) A French Withnail & I about two down-at-heel men who live in a squalid apartment. *MGM Swiss Centre* 1.50, 4.00, 6.30, 8.50
AUGUST (PG) Anthony Hopkins stars and makes his directing debut. *Curzon Mayfair* 2.00 (Sat), 4.00, 6.15, 8.30; *Renoir* 2.45, 4.50, 6.55, 9.00
BEAUTIFUL THING (15) Exploration of gay sexuality during a long, hot Summer, adapted from a Jonathan Harvey play. *Odeon Mezzanine* 6.40, 8.55
BLOOD SIMPLE (18) The Coen brothers' classic thriller. *Renoir* 1.25, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40; *Virgin Haymarket* 1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.35
BLUE IN THE FACE (15) Collage of monologues and sketches featuring the unmissable Harvey Keitel, Jim Jarmusch and Lou Reed. *MGM Swiss Centre* 1.30, 6.20
THE BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN (15) Hammer Horror feature. *Barbican Cinema* Sat 2.00
THE CABLE GUY (12) Riotous comedy starring Jim Carrey. *Virgin Trocadero* 12.20, 2.30, 4.45, 7.10, 9.30; *Warner West End* 12.10, 2.20, 4.50, 7.00, 9.10, 11.25
COPYCAT (18) A criminal psychologist becomes a serial killer's latest victim, starring Sigourney Weaver. *Warner West End* 8.30, 11.00
THE CROSSING GUARD (18) Tense prison thriller starring Jack Nicholson. *Curzon West End* 1.00 (Sat), 3.25, 5.50, 8.20; *Ritzy Cinema* 1.20, 3.45, 6.10, 8.35
DEAD MAN (18) Jim Jarmusch's unconventional Western starring Johnny Depp. *Virgin Haymarket* 2.15, 5.10, 8.10
DRACULA (18) Hammer Horror feature. *Barbican Cinema* Sat 8.45; Sun 8.30
DRACULA, PRINCE OF DARKNESS (18) Hammer Horror feature. *Barbican Cinema* Sat 4.00
EXECUTIVE DECISION (15) Thriller starring Kurt Russell as a defence expert who intervenes in a hostage situation. *Warner West End* 12.40, 3.20, 6.00, 8.40, 11.35
THE EXORCIST (18) Linda Blair is possessed by the devil in this classic horror. *Virgin Trocadero* Sat 12.30am
FARGO (18) The Coen brothers create another thriller about a kidnapping that goes horribly wrong. *ABC Panton St* 1.30, 4.00, 6.25, 8.50; *Warner West End* 1.30, 3.50, 6.20, 8.50
FLIPPER (PG) Alan Shapiro's dolphin feature starring Paul Hogan. *Virgin Trocadero* 12.20, 2.25; *Warner West End* 12.05, 2.10, 4.15
FROM DUSK TILL DAWN (18) Slick rollercoaster movie with violence aplenty. *Odeon Mezzanine* 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40
THE GODFATHER PART II (18) Re-release of the continuing mafia saga, starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. *Lumiere* 2.15, 7.10, 11.15 (Sat)
HEAT (15) Al Pacino and Robert De Niro in another cop/psychopath thriller. *Warner West End* 11.10
HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT (15) Feel-good movie starring Winona Ryder. *Plaza* 12.15, 5.40
THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (U) Animated Disney blockbuster. *Odeon Mezzanine* 1.50, 4.00; *Virgin Trocadero* 12.05, 2.05, 4.05; *Warner West End* 12noon, 2.00, 4.05, 6.10
INDEPENDENCE DAY (12) Phenomenon starring Bill Pullman. *ABC Tottenham Court Rd* 2.00, 5.40, 9.00; *Barbican Cinema* 3.00, 6.00, 8.40; *Odeon Leic Sq* 10.50am, 2.00, 5.15, 8.35, 11.50; *Odeon Marble Arch* 10.45am, 2.00, 5.15, 8.45
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (U) Fantastical story combining live action and animation. *Odeon West End* 1.15, 3.15, 5.15, 7.15, 9.10 *UCI Whiteleys* 12noon, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.00
LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) Street-level view of the glitzy world of Las Vegas, starring Nicolas Cage as an alcoholic. *ABC Panton St* 3.55, 8.45
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (PG) Brian De Palma's film version of the cult 60s TV series, starring Tom Cruise. *Plaza* 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30; *Virgin Trocadero* 1.30, 4.00, 6.40, 9.10
MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE (15) Starring Daniel Day Lewis. *ABC Shaftesbury Ave* 12noon, 3.40, 7.20
NELLY ET MONSIEUR ARNAUD (PG) French May to September romance between an ageing ex-diplomat and his typist. *MGM Swiss Centre* 3.40, 8.30
PRIMAL FEAR (18) Courtroom drama starring Richard Gere. *Plaza* 2.45, 8.20
IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES (18) *(subtitles)* Japanese erotica. *ABC Piccadilly (Formerly MGM)* 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30
RICHARD III (15) Ian McKellen stars in Shakespeare updated to an imaginary fascist Britain. *Curzon Phoenix* 1.45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30; *The Minema* 3.30, 6.30, 8.30
THE ROCK (15) Sean Connery stars. *Virgin Trocadero* 6.05, 8.55; *Warner West End* 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.20, 12midnight
SECRETS AND LIES (15) Mike Leigh's Palme d'Or winning drama. *ABC Panton St* 1.40, 5.00, 8.00; *ABC Shaftesbury Ave* 2.05, 5.00, 8.00; *Odeon Mezzanine* 2.30, 5.20, 8.20
THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH (U) Poetic drama set on the west coast of Ireland. *ABC Panton St* 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45; *Virgin Haymarket* 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40; *Warner West End* 12.10, 2.20, 4.40, 7.05, 9.30, 11.45
SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (U) Emma Thompson stars. *Odeon Mezzanine* 2.30, 5.30, 8.25
SILENCE OF THE HAMS (15) Spoof movie starring Charlene Tilton. *Virgin Trocadero* 1.55, 3.45, 5.40, 7.35, 9.35
SMOKE (15) Starring Harvey Keitel. *MGM Swiss Centre* 1.30, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30
THE STUPIDS (PG) Family enthusiasm that translates as stupidity, starring Tom Arnold. *Odeon West End* 1.45, 4.00, 6.20, 8.45
THE SUBSTITUTE (18) Tom Berenger stars. *Virgin Trocadero* Sat 12midnight
TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA (18) Hammer Horror feature. *Barbican Cinema* Sat 6.30
THINGS TO DO IN DENVER WHEN YOU'RE DEAD (18) A retired gangster returns to the job. *ABC Panton St* 1.15, 6.00
A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE (18) Black version of Play Misty For Me, directed by and starring Martin Lawrence. *MGM Baker St* 8.25; *Plaza* 6.10, 8.35
THE TIT AND THE MOON (18) Romantic triangle in the adolescent search for a surrogate breast. *ABC Piccadilly (Formerly MGM)* 1.30, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45; *Virgin Trocadero* 12.20, 2.20
TRAINSPOTTING (18) Adaptation of Irvine Welsh's smash-hit novel about drug culture. *Virgin Trocadero* 4.30, 6.45, 9.00, 12midnight (Sat); *Warner West End* 12.20, 2.30, 5.00, 7.20, 9.40
THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS (15) Comedy starring Uma Thurman as the blonde model with the male attention. *ABC Tottenham Court Rd* 2.05, 4.45, 7.05, 9.30; *Warner West End* 12.20, 2.30, 4.40, 6.50, 9.00, 11.30
TWELVE MONKEYS (15) Terry Gilliam's latest time-travelling adventure stars Bruce Willis. *Warner West End* 6.20, 8.45
TWISTER (PG) Rival meteorologists tackle the largest tornado to hit Oklahoma this century. *ABC Tottenham Court Rd* 1.35, 4.05, 6.45, 9.25; *Empire Leic Sq* 12.40, 3.20, 6.00, 8.40, 11.30 (Sat);
UP CLOSE & PERSONAL (15) The developing relationship between two TV presenters starring Hollywood heart throbs Robert Redford and Michelle Pfeiffer. *Empire Leic Sq* 12.45, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00, 11.45 (Sat)

West End Booking Lines

Numbers 0171 except where noted; some may levy a booking fee.
ABC Panton St *0181-970 6021:* ABC Piccadilly (Formerly MGM) *437 3561:* ABC Shaftesbury Ave *0181-970 6013:* ABC Tottenham Court Rd *0181-970 6032:* Barbican Cinema *638 8891:* Curzon Mayfair *369 1720;* Curzon Phoenix *369 1721;* Curzon West End *369 1722;* Empire Leic Sq *0990-888990;* The Minema *369 1723;* Odeon Haymarket *0181-315 4212* Odeon Leic Sq *930 3232:* Odeon Marble Arch *723 2011;* Odeon Mezzanine *930 3232* Odeon West End *0181-315 4221:* Plaza *0990-888990;* Renoir *837 8402;* Virgin Haymarket *0181-970 6016;* Virgin Trocadero *0181-970 6015;* Warner West End *437 4343.*

repertory cinema

EVERYMAN Hollybush Vale NW3 (0171-435 1525)
Hustler White (18) *Sat 11.15pm* La Dolce Vita (18) *Sat 2.15pm, 8pm + 8 1/2 (18) 5.30pm* Dekalog 7 (PG) *Sun 12.45pm + Dekalog 8 (PG) 1.55pm + Dekalog 9 (PG) 3.05pm + Dekalog 10 (PG) 4.15pm* Last Tango In Paris (18) *5.30pm The Unbearable Lightness Of Being (18) 7.50pm*
ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)
Hustler White (18) *Sat/Sun 2.30pm, 4.05pm, 5.50pm, 7.35pm, 9.20pm* Hunger Artist (15)/Anton And Misty *Sat/Sun 6.30pm, 8.30pm*
NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232)
Winnie The Pooh Programme (U) *Sat/Sun 4pm* The Thing [1982 VERSION] (18) *6.10pm* Random Harvest *6.15pm* Nelly Et Monsieur Arnaud (PG) *Sat 6.15pm; Sun 4.15pm* Tokyo Story (U) *Sat 7.30pm* Il Postino (15) *Sat 8.30pm* Nick Of Time (15) *Sat 8.45pm; Sun 8.30pm* Dusty Ermine (PG) *Sun 6.15pm* A Short Film About Love (18) *Sun 6.30pm* The Big Heat *Sun 7.30pm* Mandingo *Sun 8.40pm*
PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181)
White Squall (12) *Sat 1pm* Dead Man Walking (15) *Sat 3.30pm* The Juror (18) *Sat 6pm* Moonlight And Valentino (15) *Sat 8.30pm* Twelve Monkeys (15) *Sat 10.30pm* Kids (15) *Sun 2pm* The Hunchback Of Notre Dame (PG) *Sun 4pm* Brit Boys (18) *Sun 6.30pm* The Birdcage (15) *Sun 8.45pm*
RIVERSIDE Crisp Rd W6 (0181-741 2255)
Smoke (15) *Sat 6.30pm + Blue In The Face (15) 8.45pm* Three Colours Blue (15) *Sun 4.30pm + Three Colours White (15) 6.20pm + Three Colours Red (15) 8.20pm*

THEATRE

West End Choice

Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

THE ASPERN PAPERS
Daniel J Travanti and Hannah Gordon in Michael Redgrave's adaptation of Henry James' novel.
Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 8.00, Sat 8.15, [4] 3.00, [7] 5.00, ends 14 Sep, £7.50-£24. 145 mins.
BY JEEVES
An Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Ayckbourn musical collaboration based on the P.G. Wodehouse stories.
Duke of York's St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00, ends 28 Sep, £9-£25. 140 mins.
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)
Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays.
Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊖ Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8.00, [5] 3.00, [7] 5.00, [1] 4.00, £5.50-£20. 120 mins.
FERRY 'CROSS THE MERSEY
Musical biog starring Gerry and the Pacemakers.
Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15, [4] 3pm & [7] 5, ends 7 Sep, £9.50-£25. 155 mins.
HEDDA GABLER
Ibsen's dark masterpiece presented by *English Touring Theatre* stars Alexandra Gilbreath.
Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00, [5][7] 4.00, ends 31 Aug, £12-£18. 150 mins.
AN IDEAL HUSBAND
Diane Fletcher and John McCallum in Peter Hall's revival of his 1992 production.
Old Vic Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, ends 23 Nov, £6-£24. 165 mins.
THE LIGHTS
Howard Korder's urban tales.
Royal Court Sloane Sq. SW1 (0171-730 1745) ⊖ Sloane Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30, [7] 3.30, ends 31 Aug, £5-£18, concs available. 130 mins.
MARTIN GUERRE
Boublil and Schonberg's latest musical.
Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-734 8951) ⊖ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45, [5][7] 3.00, £16.50-£32.50. 150 mins.
ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE:
Olivier:
A Little Night Music Sean Mathias's production of Sondheim's musical stars Judi Dench and Patricia Hodge.
Today 2.00 & 7.15. 165 mins.
Lyttelton:
John Gabriel Borkman Paul Scofield, Vanessa Redgrave and Eileen Atkins in Ibsen's late play.
Today 2.15 & 7.30. 150 mins.
Cottesloe:
Stanley Antony Sher as the great English artist Stanley Spencer in Pam Gems' portrait. Today 2.30 & 7.30. 175 mins.
Olivier: £12-£32.50. Lyttelton: £8-£24. Cottesloe: £12-£16. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) BR/⊖ Waterloo.
PASSION
Michael Ball and Maria Friedman in Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's award-winning musical.
Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590) ⊖ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 8.00, [4][7] 3.00, £13.50-£30. 135 mins.
SALAD DAYS
Ned Sherrin directs Kit & the Widow in the hit 50s romantic musical.
Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊖ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8.00, [4] 2.30, [7] 4.00, £10-£27.50. 135 mins.
A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY
Adaptation of Sterne's comic travelogue of England.
Open Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431) ⊖ Baker St. Tonight 11.00, £5. 60 mins.

Beyond the West End

ARTS THEATRE
Two Boys In A Bed On A Cold Winter's Night Bittersweet examination of the world of one-night stands. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 7pm & 9pm, ends 7 Sep, £12.50, concs £7.50. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132) ⊖ Leicester Square.
HAMPSTEAD THEATRE
The Memory of Water Terry Johnson directs Hayden Gwynne in Shelagh Stephenson's play about three women returning from their mother's funeral. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4pm, ends 31 Aug, £11-£13.50, Mon & mat Sat £8, concs available. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) ⊖ Swiss Cottage.
LYRIC STUDIO
Birdy Naomi Wallace's adaptation of William Wharton's American novel. Last performances today 4.30pm & 8pm. £7.50, standby concs £5. King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊖ Hammersmith.
TRICYCLE THEATRE
3 Ms Behaving Three women express their romantic aspirations through standards by the likes of Berlin, Bernstein and Kern. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4pm, ends 24 Aug. £7.50-£13, concs available. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) ⊖ Kilburn.

Around the country

Bath

THEATRE ROYAL
Uncle Vanya Bill Bryden directs Derek Jacobi in the title role of Chekhov's droll comic drama. Today 2.30pm & 8pm. £8-£22, concs available. Sawclose (01225-448844)

Chichester

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE
When We Are Married Jude Kelly directs Dawn French and Leo McKern in JB Priestley's comic drama. Today 2.30pm & 8pm. £9-£25. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)
MINERVA THEATRE
Hedda Gabler Henrik Ibsen's classic with Harriet Walter in the demanding title role. Today 2.24pm & 7.45pm. £14-£25, concs available. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

Guildford

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE
Laughter on the 23rd Floor Gene Wilder plays a 1950s television comic besieged by McCarthyism in Neil Simon's comedy. Mon-Thu 7.45pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 24 Aug. £10-£20.50, concs available. Millbrook (01483-440000)

Oxford

ROSE THEATRE
Hamlet Oxford Stage Company's updated Shakespearean tragedy with Ian Pepperrell, Emma Cunniffe and Sheila Allen. Mon-Thu & Sat 7.30pm, Fri 8pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, ends 24 Aug. £10, concs £5. Rose Place, St Aldates (01865-798600)

Southampton

MAYFLOWER THEATRE
Crazy For You Ambitious and irrepressible chorus-line musical packed with Gershwin greats. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 31 Aug. £10-£25, concs available. Commercial Road (01703-711811)

Stratford-upon-Avon

THE OTHER PLACE
The Comedy of Errors Tim Supple directs Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identity. In rep, today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 12 Sep. £13.50-£17.50. Southern Lane (01789-295623)
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE
Macbeth Roger Allam heads Tim Albery's production of Shakespeare's tragedy. In rep, mat today 1.30pm, ends 5 Oct. £6.50-£35.50.
As You Like It Niamh Cusack makes a return to the RSC in Steven Pimlott's production. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 5 Oct. £6.50-£35.50. Waterside (01789-295623)
SWAN THEATRE
Three Hours After Marriage Richard Cottrell directs the first major staging of Gay, Pope and Arbuthnot's comedy in 250 years. In rep, mat today 1.30pm, ends 5 Oct. £9-£29.50.
The White Devil Gale Edwards directs Jane Gurnett in Webster's violent revenge thriller. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 5 Oct. £9-£29.50. Waterside (01789-295623)

EXHIBITIONS

Bridport

BRIDPORT ARTS CENTRE
Anthony Caro Figure drawings by leading British artist known for abstract sculpture. Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, ends 24 Aug, free. South Street (01308-427183)

Cambridge

KETTLE'S YARD
Claes Oldenburg: The Multiples Store Small sculptural multiples. Tue-Sat 12.30pm-5.30pm, Sun 2pm-5.30pm, ends 22 Sep, free. Castle Street (01223-352124)

Chichester

SCULPTURE AT GOODWOOD
New Sculpture at Goodwood Includes work by Richard Deacon, Peter Randall-Page and Cathy de Monchaux. Thu-Sat 10.30am-4.30pm, ends 2 Nov. £7.50 (£10 Saturday). Hat Hill Copse (01243-538449)

London

BARBICAN ART GALLERY
Eve Arnold: In Retrospect Two hundred photographs exploring the work of this prominent photo-journalist. Mon, Wed-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-5.45pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 18 Aug. £4.50, concs £2.50 (price includes entry to Derek Jarman). Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) ⊖ Barbican.
CAMDEN ARTS CENTRE
New Contemporaries 96 Work by 33 young artists. Tue-Thu 12noon-8pm, Fri-Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 8 Sep, free. Arkwright Rd, NW3 (0171-435 2643/5224) ⊖ Finchley Rd.
COURTAULD INSTITUTE GALLERIES
The Four Elements Includes work by Durer, Bruegel and Piranesi. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2pm-6pm, ends 22 Sep, free.
Somerset House, Strand, WC2 (0171-873 2526) ⊖ Embankment.
DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY
Dutch Flower Painting 1600-1750 Includes Bosschaert and Ruysch. Tue-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 29 Sep. £2, concs £1 (to gallery), Fri free. Gallery Rd (0181-693 5254) BR: West Dulwich.
HAYWARD GALLERY
Claes Oldenburg: An Anthology Major retrospective of witty soft sculptures by this pop art hero. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (until 8pm Tue & Wed), ends 18 Aug. £5, concs £3.50. Belvedere Rd, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR: Waterloo.
NATIONAL GALLERY
Degas: Beyond Impressionism Pastels, drawings and sculpture from Degas' late period. Ends 26 Aug. £5, concs £3.
New Acquisitions: Huber's Christ taking leave of his Mother and Albrecht Durer's Saint Jerome. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed until 8pm), Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 13 Oct, free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) ⊖ Charing Cross.
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
BP Portrait Award Prestigious annual portraiture show. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 20 Oct, free. St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) ⊖ Char X.
ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
228th Royal Academy Summer Exhibition National open exhibition. Ends 18 Aug. £5, concs £4.
Roger de Grey Paintings inspired by the landscape. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, ends 22 Sep. £3, concs £2. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7438) ⊖ Picc Circ.
SERPENTINE GALLERY
Richard Wilson: Jamming Gears Installation made for the gallery space. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, ends 15 Sep, free. Kensington Gardens, W2 (0171-402 6075) ⊖ South Kensington.
TATE GALLERY
Leon Kossoff Highly textured paintings of urban scenes. Ends Sep 1. £4, concs £2.50.
Hans Hartung Abstract drawings. Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2pm-5.50pm, ends 27 Oct, free. Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊖ Pimlico.
VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM
William Morris Exploration of the life and work of this designer, writer and printer. Mon 12noon-5.30pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.30pm, ends 1 Sep. £5.50, concs £3.25. Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500) ⊖ South Kensington.
WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERY
The Open The bi-annual submission exhibition. Tue-Sun 11am-5pm (Wed until 8pm), ends 15 Sep, free. Whitechapel High Street, E1 (0171-522 7888) ⊖ Aldgate East.

Oxford

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
Scream and Scream Again Film in art including Tony Oursler and Douglas Gordon. Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, (Thu until 9pm), ends 22 Sep. £2.50, concs £1.50, free Wed 11am-1pm, Thu 6pm-9pm. Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

St Ives

ST IVES TATE GALLERY
Mark Rothko in Cornwall Rothko's visit to St Ives explored in a display exhibition alongside St Ives artists. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 3 Nov. £3, concs £1.50 (to gallery). Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

COMEDY

BOUND & GAGGED TUFNELL PARK
Otis Cannelloni, Boothby Graffoe, Martin Soan, Stu Who? Tonight 9.15pm. Tufnell Park Road, N7 (0171-483 3456) ⊖ Tufnell Park. £6, concs £5, m'ship £1.
COMEDY CAFE
Roger Monkhouse, plus others.
Tonight 8.30pm, Rivington Street, EC2 (0171-739 5706) ⊖ Old Street. £8.
COMEDY STORE: BEST IN STAND-UP
Phil Davey, John Moloney, Roger Monkhouse, Danny Morris, Paul Zenmon. Tonight 8pm & midnight, Oxendon Street. SW1 (01426-914433) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. £10.
HAMPSTEAD COMEDY CLUB AT THE WASHINGTON
Steve Best, Steve Bowditch, Ricky Grover. Tonight 8pm, Englands Lane, NW3 (0171-483 3647) ⊖ Belsize Park. £6, concs £5.
JONGLEURS BATTERSEA
Tim Clark, Mandy Knight, Simon Lipson, Steve Rawlings. Tonight 7.15pm & 11.15pm. Lavender Gardens, SW11 (0171-924 2766) BR: Clapham Junction. £10, concs £7.
JONGLEURS CAMDEN
Keith Fields, John Mann, Dave Spikey, Jim Tavare. Tonight 7.15pm & 11.15pm. Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766) ⊖ Camden Town. £10, concs £7.
MECCANO CLUB AT FINNEGANS WAKE
Fiona Allen, Ricky Grover, John Hodge, Ian Keable. Tonight 9pm, Essex Road, N1 (0171-813 4478) ⊖ Angel. £6, concs £5.
SHORT BAC & SIDES AT BAC
Steve Gribbon.
Tonight & Sun, 8.30pm. £7.50, concs £6.
Donna McPhail & Mandy Knight.
Tonight 10pm, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223) BR: Clapham Junction. £7.50, concs £6.
FELICITY ETHNIC AT HACKNEY EMPIRE
Cult characters and more from *The Real McKoy's* Felicity Ethnic.
Tonight 8pm, Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424) BR: Hackney Central. £8.
UP THE CREEK
Anthony King, Raymond & Mr Timkins Revue, *Smiley, Andre Vincent.*
Tonight 9pm, Creek Road, SE10 (0181-858 4581) BR: Greenwich. £12, concs £8.
COMEDY STORE PLAYERS
Paul Merton, Neil Mullarkey, Lee Simpson, Andy Smart, Jim Sweeney, Richard Vranch. Sun 8pm, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-914433) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. £10.
TAKE THE MIKE COMEDY
Zeron Gibson, Reg Nice, Paul Rogan. Sun 8.30pm, Putney High Street, SW15 (0171-602 6180) ⊖ East Putney.
TUT 'N' SHIVE
Dave Dave, Ken Swallow and Neil Zipper. Sun 8.45pm, *Upper Street, N1 (0171-359 7719)* ⊖ Angel. £4, concs £3.

DANCE

London

HOTHOUSE: ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Blitz '96: La Mer Performance Project for the Over Fifties A group of older performers are inspired by the sun and sand. Today 2pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, free. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo.
JACKSON'S LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE
Mosaics '96: Dancing Sculptures/Doing And Bondage Two Indian Dance Society pieces combining Bharatanatyam and ballet. Tonight 8pm. £4.50-£6. Archway Road, N6 (0181-341 4421) ⊖ Highgate.
LONDON COLISEUM
Lord Of The Dance New dance-drama choreographed by Michael Flatley of Riverdance. Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm. £10-£32.50. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) ⊖ Leicester Square.
BALLROOM, MAIN FOYER, ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL: BLITZ '96
Capital Cabaret A ballroom and Latin American extravaganza. Sun 1pm, 4.30pm, 9pm, free. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo.

Ross-On-Wye

RIVERSIDE PAVILLION
London City Ballet: Gala Includes *Solitaire, Les Patineurs, Tweedledum and Tweedledee.* Today 2pm & 7.30pm. £10-£15. The *Riverside (01497-821999)*

CLASSICAL

Darlington

GREAT HALL
Panocha String Quartet Martinu's 3rd String Quartet with Smetana's 1st *(From My Life)*. Tonight 8.15pm. £7 & £10.
Ken Hoffman/Nigel Hutchinson Violin Sonatas by Mozart and Schumann with a Schubert Sonatine. Sun 8.15pm. £7 & £10. (01803-863073)

London

BAC
Cloud Ensemble A colourful range of 20th century chamber music, including Stravinsky's *Dumbarton Oaks*. Tonight 8pm. £7.50, concs £5. *Lavender Hill, SW11* (0171-223 2223) BR: Clapham Junction.
CHISWICK HOUSE
First Act Opera International Accompanied by the Brandenburg Concert Orchestra in a selection of Baroque opera classics. Sun 7pm. £10, concs £7.50. Burlington Lane, W4 (0181-577 6969) BR: Chiswick.
KENWOOD
Royal Philharmonic/Sutherland English works including Elgar's masterly 1st Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm. £10.50 & £13.50, concs £8.50. Hampstead Lane. NW3 (0171-413 1443) ⊖ Golders Green, then 210 bus.
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
New Chamber Opera/Gordon Featuring some music not performed since the 17th century by Stradella, Pasquali and others. Tonight 6.30pm. £6.
New London Consort/Pickett Medieval pilgrim songs and dances. Tonight 8pm. £7 & £10. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo.
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Belohlavek Choral works by Dvorak and Martinu with Mozart's last Piano Concerto, played by Richard Goode. Tonight 7.30pm. £4-£18.
Oslo Philharmonic/Jansons Barbara Bonney sings Grieg songs with Mahler's dramatic 5th Symphony. Sun 7.30pm. £4-£23. Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) ⊖ High St Kensington.
ST JAMES'S CHURCH
London Concertante/Grist Wide range of Baroque classics. Tonight 7.30pm. £8-£12. Piccadilly, W1 (0171-437 5053) ⊖ Piccadilly.

Silsoe

WREST PARK
English Sinfonia/Bagli Popular classics and Last Night of the Proms fare. Sun 7.30pm. £13, concs £10.50. (0171-413 1443)

OPERA

Lewes

GLYNDEBOURNE OPERA HOUSE: GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL OPERA
Ermione A further run for last year's production of Rossini, directed by Graham Vick and conducted by Andrew Davis. Tonight 5.55pm. £10-£110.
Arabella A revival of John Cox's production of Richard Strauss' and Hugo von Hofmannsthal's last collaboration. Sun 4.15pm. £10-£110.
Glyndebourne House (01273-813813)

London

HOLLAND PARK THEATRE: OPERA HOLLAND PARK
Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi's drama of political intrigue, directed by Anthony Besch and conducted by David Gibson. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £20, concs £14.50. Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-602 7856) ⊖ High Street Kensington.

Tunbridge Wells

BROOMHILL: BROOMHILL OPERA
The Turn of the Screw Britten's tense thriller, after Henry James, directed by Caroline Ward. Tonight & Sun, 7.30pm. £12.50-£35. Broomhill Road, Southborough (01892-517720)

POP

Chelmsford

V96 With Pulp, Supergrass, Elastica, Cast, Gary Numan, Stereolab, Jonathan Richman, Heavy Stereo, Fluffy, Super Furry Animals, Denim, Gorky's Zygotic Mynci, Longpigs, Tiger (Sat), Paul Weller, Lightning Seeds, Charlatans, Tricky, Orbital, Incognito, Shed Seven, Menswear, The Cardigans, The Aloof, Morcheeba, Kula Shaker, Lamb, Mad Professor (Sun). *Hylands Park* (01245-495028) Today 12noon, phone for availability, Sun 12noon, £25.

Exeter

Dodgy, Loop Guru, Catatonia, The Bluetones, The Supernaturals, The Candyskins The Brummie pop trio play a tour of outside venues with their Big Top.
The Fairground Site Matford (01392-425309) Sun 3pm-10.30pm, £10-£13.

Guildford

Guildford Folk & Blues Festival With Peter Green, Eddi Reader, Shane Macgowan & The Popes, Big Country, Big Town Playboys, The Men They Couldn't Hang, Albion Band, Eliza Carthy, Big Joe Louis, Eliza Carthy, Shooglenifty and Dr Didg.
Stoke Park (01483-454159) Today & Sun, 12noon, £27-£32, day ticket £17-£20.

London

Fun In The Sun Soca day featuring Super Blue Krosfyah, Shadow, Tommy Joseph, Sprang-A-Lang (Sat), reggae day featuring Bunny Wailer, Chaka Demus & Pliers, Spanner Banner, Augustus Pablo, Prince Lincoln & The Royal Rasses and Akabu. *Finsbury Park* N4 (0171-923 2555/cc 263 7806) ⊖ Finsbury Park. Today 2pm-10pm, £17, Sun 2pm-10pm, £20.

Padbury

North Bucks Blues & Folk Festival With Peter Green, Bernie Marsden, Henry Gray, Tad Newton, Micky Moody & Papa George, Show Of Hands and more.
Wardens Farm (01280-824204) Today & Sun, times vary, £35, family £80, children free, day tickets available.

Swindon

Wiltshire Festival With Jimmy Somerville, Let Loose, Mike Flowers Pops and Big Country.
Lydiard Country Park Hook Street (01793-878864) Today 2pm-10.30pm, £16.50.

jazz, world, folk etc

Bristol

Joey Calderazzo Trio New York Blue Note pianist with his brother Gene on drums and Brit-bop bassist Arnie Somogyi.
Albert Inn West Street (0117-966 1968) Sun 8pm, £5.50, concs £5.

London

Ray Gelato & Alex Garnett's Tough Tenors
Beefy tenor pairing.
Bull's Head Lonsdale Road SW13 (0181-876 5241) BR: Barnes Bridge. Sun 8pm, £5.
Lorna Luft Broadway cabaret diva.
Cafe Royal Regent Street W1 (0171-437 9090) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Tonight 8pm, ends 7 Sep, £25.
Gil Scott-Heron *The Tony Benn of funk.*
Island Ilford High Road (0181-514 4400) BR: Ilford. Tonight 8pm, £10.
Ed Jones Quintet Fiery hard bop tenorist moves funkwards with trumpeter Byron Wallen and pianist Jon Gee. Tonight 7pm, £8, adv £6.
Shakatak Cortina-funk with Bill Sharpe.
Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-344 0044) ⊖ Camden Town. Sun 7pm, £12, adv £10.
Pasadena Roof Orchestra Showboat-style 1920s trad. *Open Air Theatre* Regent's Park NW1 (0171-486 2431) ⊖ Baker Street. Sun 8pm, £10-£12.
Stacey Kent Quintet Stylish US chanteuse with saxist Jim Tomlinson.
Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5550) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner. Tonight 9pm, £18, adv £16.
Helen Watson Blues and folk-edged jazz singer. *Purcell Room* South Bank Centre SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Sun 7.30pm, £8.50.
Jose Neto Brazilian fusion guitarist best known for his work with Airto and Flora's Fourth World, plus US tenorist Bob Kindred. *Ronnie Scott's* Frith St W1 (0171-439 0747) ⊖ Tott Ct Rd. Tonight 9pm. £12, NUS £7, mems £7.
Claire Martin Trio Urbane, gifted jazz songstress. *Vortex* Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington. Tonight 8pm, £7.
Paul Rutherford/Harry Beckett/Elton Dean/Marcio Mattos British improv luminaries on trombone, trumpet, saxes, bass and drums. *Vortex* Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington. Sun 8pm. £4, concs £3.

EVENTS

Bournemouth

Hot Ice Show Performances on ice.
Bournemouth International Centre Exeter Road (01202-297297) Mon-Sat 2.30pm & 8pm, Fri 7.30pm. ends 14 Sep, £14-£5.

Chippenham

Classic And Sportscar Action Day Annual event where over 70 owners' clubs will have cars on show. *Castle Combe Circuit* (01249-782101) Today 9am-5pm, £5, concs £3.

Colchester

Mr Men In Music Land Children's favourite characters in a new show. *Mercury Theatre* Balkerne Gate (01206-573948) Today 11am & 2pm, £6.50, child £5.50.

Hay-On-Wye

Ross-On-Wye International Festival World music, dance and theatre. *Various venues* (01497-821299) Times vary. ends 28 Aug, phone for details.

London

Sun, Sand & Sea Carnival club course based on exotic costume creation.
Chats Palace Brooksby's Walk E9 (0181-533 0227) BR: Homerton High Street. Today 1pm-6pm, ends 24 Aug, phone for details.
West London Antiques Fair Rare antiques and objects d'art.
Kensington Town Hall Hornton Street W8 (0171-937 5464) ⊖ High St Kensington. Today & Sun, 11am-6pm, free.
Summer On The Square Eclectic music, dance and children's entertainment.
Peckham Square Peckham High St./Rye Lane SE15 (0171-732 3232)
BR: Peckham Rye. Today, phone for details, ends 31 Aug, free.
Carters Royal Berkshire Fair Original steam funfair. *Priory Park* Priory Road N8 (01628-822221) ⊖ Archway. Today & Sun, times vary, phone for details.
The Steam Basin Short films, live music, spoken word and open debate.
Sekers Cafe Gallery Stoke Newington High Street N16 (0171-249 0213) BR: Stoke Newington. Tonight 7pm-1am. £4, £2.50.

Market Bosworth

Joust And Battle Re-enactment A medieval battle, Morris men and jousting on horseback. *Bosworth Battlefield* (01455-290429) Sun 1pm, £4, concs £2, child under 5 free.

Slimbridge

Snakes Alive! Get close to some amazing animals with Ray Gabriel. *The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust* (01453-890333). Today & Sun, 11am-5pm, £4.70, child £2.35.

Southsea

Victorian Weekend Event featuring the 15th King's Hussars and Fort Cumberland Guard. *Southsea Castle* (01705-827261) Today & Sun, 11am-5pm, Free-£2.10.

Church services

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8am HC; 9.30am Matins; 11am Sung Eucharist, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), The Rev Mark Roberts; 3.15pm Evensong, Brewer in D; 6.30pm Compline, The Rev Dr M.J. Chandler.
YORK MINSTER: 8am, 8.45am HC; 10am Sung Eucharist, Darke in F, The Very Rev Robert Waddington; 11.30am Matins, Collegium regale (Howells); 4pm Evensong, Stanford in A, The Very Rev Raymond Furnell.

BURY ST EDMUNDS, St Edmundsbury Cathedral: 8am HC; 10am Sung Eucharist; 11.30am Choral Matins; 3.30pm Choral Evensong.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30am Morning Prayer; 8am HC, The Vice Provost; 9.30am Eucharist, The Vice Provost; 11.15am Eucharist, The Rev Ivor Moody; 6pm Evensong, Canon Barry Thompson.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8am HC; 10am Matins, Ireland in F, The Right Rev Michael Manktelow; 11am Sung Eucharist, Wood in the Ionian mode, The Right Rev Morris Maddocks; 3.30pm Evensong, Westminster service (Howells).
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15am HC, Canon Dennis Green; 10.30am Sung Eucharist, Harwood in G minor, The Bishop of Huntingdon, 3.45pm Evensong, St Paul's service (Howells).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 9.45am Sung Eucharist, O sing joyfully (Batten), The Precentor; 11.15am Matins, Stanford in B flat, The Priest Vicar; 3pm Evensong, Brewer in D; 6.30pm Evening Service, Jesu, joy of man's desiring (Bach), The Precentor.
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 10.15am Eucharist, Messe solennelle (Langlais), The Dean, 12.15pm HC; 3pm Evensong, Brewer in D
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, The Rev Dr Ian Fisher; 9.45am Song Eucharist, Darke in E minor, The Rev Professor David Martin; 11.15am Matins, Britten in C, Canon Douglas Bryant; 6.30pm Evensong, Abrams in D minor, Canon Dr Maureen Palmer.
HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 10am Cathedral Eucharist, Jackson in G, The Precentor; 11.30am Matins, Stanford in B flat; 3.30pm Evensong, Wesley in E, Prebendary Michael Stedman.
NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30am Morning Prayer; 8am, 9.15am HC, 10.30am Sung Eucharist, Messe solennelle (Langlais), Canon Michael Perham; 3.30pm Evensong, Murrill in E; 6.30pm Evening Service, Canon Frank Millett.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.45am Matins and Litany; 10.30am Eucharist, Christchurch mass (Archer), Canon Frank Pickard; 3.30pm Evensong, Dyson in D
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 10am Song Eucharist, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne), The Rev Mary Macvicar; 6.30pm Parish Evensong, The Provost.
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8am HC; 9.45am Matins, Open thou mine eyes (Rutter); 10.30am Sung Eucharist, Prayer (Ord), Canon John Armson; 3.15pm Evensong, Nunc dimittis (Purcell).
ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 9.15am Parish Eucharist, Canon Rinaux; 11am Matins. Short service (Weelkes), Canon Ritson; 12.15pm HC; 3pm Burma Star Association Service; 6.30pm Evensong, Sumsion in A, Mr Derek Sawyer.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, Canon David Slater; 10am Eucharist, Octavi toni (Lassus), Canon David Slater; 11.30am Matins, Ireland in F, The Rev Ann Philp; 3pm Evensong, Rose in C minor.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 9am Matins; 10am Sung Eucharist, Darke in F, The Dean, 3pm Burma Star Association Service, Prebendary David Wills; 6pm Evensong, Collegium regale (Howells), The Dean.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 10am Sung Eucharist, Darke in F, The Rev E de N. Lucas; 11.30am Matins, Collegium regale (Howells), 3pm Evensong, Dyson in D, The Ven R.F. Acworth.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8am HC, 10.30am Matins, Ireland in F, Canon Philip Morgan; 11.30am Eucharist, Missa Sancti Aelredi (MacNutt); 3.30pm Evensong, Brewer in D, Prebendary Peter Speck.

CARDIFF Llandaff Cathedral: 7.30am Matins and Litany; 8am Holy Eucharist, The Rev Matthew Tomlinson; 9am Parish Eucharist, The Rev Matthew Tomlinson; 11am Sung Eucharist, Missa brevis in C (Mozart), The Dean; 12.15pm Holy Eucharist, 3.30pm Choral Evensong, Hylton Stewart in C, 6.30pm Parish Evensong and Sermon, Mr A.V.J. Steele.
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8am, 10.30am Holy Eucharist; 6.30pm Evensong.
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8am HC; 9.30am Cymun Bendigaid, Y Canon, Parish Eucharist, The Succentor; 11.15am Choral Matins, Wadely in E flat, The Dean; 6pm Choral Evensong.

BRISTOL, Clifton Cathedral: 8am Mass; 9.30am Family Mass; 11am Solemn Mass; 6pm Mass.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8am HC; 8.45am Matins; 11am Sung Eucharist, Missa euge bone (Tye), Canon Michael Saward; 3.15pm Evensong, Jackson in G, Canon David Winter; 5.15pm Organ Recital by Jeremy Bruns.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8am HC; 10am Matins, Britten in C, The Rev Barry Fenton; 11.15am Abbey Eucharist, Collegium regale (Howells), Sister Hilary Markey; 3pm Evensong, Gloucester service (Howells), Canon David Hutt; 5.45pm Recital by the Princeton Singers; 6.30pm Evening Service, The Dean.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9am Eucharist, Canon David Painter; 11am Eucharist with hymns, Canon David Painter; 3pm Choral Evensong, Gray in F minor, Canon Roy White.
CATHEDRAL OF THE DIVINE WISDOM (Greek Orthodox), Moscow Road, London W2: 9.30am Matins; 11am Divine Liturgy, Byzantine Chant and Choral Music, sung in Greek.
CATHEDRAL OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD (Russian Orthodox), Ennismore Gardens, London SW7: 10.30am Divine Liturgy, Choral Music of the Kievan and Znamenny traditions, sung in Church Slavonic and English.
CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVA (Serbian Orthodox), Lancaster Road, London W11: 10.30am Divine Liturgy, Traditional Serbian Choral Music, sung in Church Slavonic.
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ST SARKIS, Iverna Gardens, London W8. 11am Morning Prayer, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian.

Chapel Royal, Hampton Court: 8.30am HC.
Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15am HC, 11am Song Eucharist, The Rev Simon Hobbs.
Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11am Matins, Ave Maria (Schubert), Canon S.F. Bloxam-Rose; 12pm HC.
Royal Hospital Chelsea, SW3: 11am Morning Prayer, The Rev T. Hiney.
All Hallows by the Tower, Byward Street, EC3: 11am Sung Eucharist, Canon Peter Delaney.
All Saints, Margaret Street, W1: 8am Low Mass; 10.20am Morning Prayer; 11am High Mass, Stanford in C, The Vicar; 5.15pm Low Mass; 6pm Solemn Evensong and Benediction, Watson in E, Dr C.C.G. Rawll.
All Saints, Putney Bridge, SW6: 8am HC, 9.30am Sung Eucharist; 11.30am Family Eucharist; 6pm Sung Evensong.
All Souls', Langham Place, W1: 9am Communion; 11am, The Rev John Cook; 6.30pm, Prebendary Richard Bewes.
Chelsea Old Church, Old Church Street, SW3: 8am HC; 10am Children's Service; 11am Matins, Mr J. Wetherson; 12.15pm HC; 6pm Evensong, The Rev D. Bean.
Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, SW7. 11am Choral Morning Prayer, The Rev L.E.M. Claxton; 12.05pm Eucharist.
Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.45am HC.
St Alban the Martyr, Holborn, EC1: 9.30am Sung Mass; 11am Solemn Mass, Missa Sancti Dominici (Rubbra).
St Botolph's, Aldgate, EC3: 10.30am Song Eucharist, The Rev John Pearce.
St Bride's, Fleet Street, EC4: 11am Choral Matins and Eucharist, Jackson in G, Canon James Robertson; 6.30pm Choral Evensong, First service (Parsons).
St Clement Danes, Strand, WC2: 11am Choral Eucharist, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), The Rev John Coyne.
St Cyprian's, Glentworth Street, NW1: 10.30am Matins; 11am Solemn Mass, Canon J. Wilkinson.
St George's, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1: 10am Song Eucharist, Fr Perry Butler; 5.20pm Recorder and Piano Recital; 6.30pm Evening Prayer.
St George's, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30am HC; *11am Song Eucharist, The Rector.*
St James's, Piccadilly: 8.30am HC; 11am Song Eucharist, The Rev Donald Reeves; 5.45pm Evening Prayer.
St James's, Muswell Hill, N10: 8am HC; 9.30am, 11am Morning Worship, The Rev Philip Sodell; 6.30pm Evening Praise, The Rev Moira Hansen.
St John's, Stratford Broadway, E15: 11am Family Communion, Toccata (Whitlock), The Rev David Richards; 6.30pm Evening Prayer and Praise, The Rev Modicum Otello.
St John the Baptist, Holland Road, W14: 10am Latin Mass; 11am Mass, Fr G. Bright.
St Luke's, Sydney Street, SW3: 10.30am Song Eucharist, Lord, give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), The Rev Derek Watson; 12.15pm HC; 6.30pm Evensong, *The Rev Gerald Beauchamp.*
St Magnus the Martyr, Lower Thames Street, EC3: 11am Solemn Mass.
St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey: 11am Sung Eucharist, Missa assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), *The Rev Peter Cowell.*
St Mark's, Regent's Park Road, NW1: 8am HC, 9.45am Family Communion; 11am Song Eucharist, The Rev Anthony Shaw.
St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2: 8am HC; 9.45am Eucharist, The Vicar; 11.30am Visitors to London Service, The Rev Bernhard Schünemann; 12.30pm HC, The Rev William Runsleford; 2.45pm Chinese Service, The Rev Joyce Bennett; 5pm Choral Evensong; 6.30pm Evening Service, The Rev Lawrence Mathebula.
St Mary Abbots, Vicarage Gate, W8: 8am HC; 9.30am Parish Eucharist, The Vicar; 11.15am Choral Matins, Mr N. Paine; 12.30pm HC; 6.30pm Evensong, The Rev M. Fuller.
St Mary Kensington, Kennington Park Road, SE11: 9.30am Morning Prayer; 10am Parish Mass, Fr Michael Hart; 4pm Evening Service; 5pm Mass.
St Mary's, Primrose Hill, NW3: 8am HC; 10.30am Parish Eucharist, The Rev John Ovenden; 6pm Evening Prayer.
St Pancras, Euston Road, NW1: 10.30am Song Mass, 6pm Choral Evensong.
St Paul's, Wilton Place, SW1: 8am, 9am HC; 11am Solemn Eucharist, The Rev Neil Dawson.
St Peter's, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15am HC; 10am Family Eucharist; 11am Sung Eucharist, Missa brevis (Anerio), The Rev Elizabeth Bradley.
St Peter's, Streatham, SW16: 8am Low Mass; 10.30am Solemn Mass, 6.30pm Solemn Evensong and Benediction.
Temple Church, Fleet Street, EC4: 9am HC.

St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, SW1: 11am, 6.30pm, The Rev Calum I. MacLeod.
Crown Court (Church of Scotland), Russell Street, WC2: 11.15am, 6.30pm, Dr Peter F. Green.

Our Lady of the Assumption, Warwick Street, W1: 8am, 10am Mass; 11am Sung Latin Mass, Missa ave maris stella (Vittoria); 12pm, 4pm, 6pm Mass.
Farm Street, W1: 8am, 9.30am Mass; 11am Solemn Latin Mass; 12.30pm Mass; 4.15pm, 6.15pm Mass.
The Oratory, Brompton Road, SW7: 7am, 8am, 9am, 10am Mass; 11am Solemn Mass, Missa assumpta est Maria (Palestrina); 12.30pm Mass; 3.30pm Solemn Vespers, O sacrum convivium (Croce); 4.30pm, 7pm Mass.

The Good Shepherd and Our Lady, Station Road, Penge East, SE20: 9.45am Rosary; 10am Tridentine Mass.

City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, EC1: 10.30am, The Rev Mark Patterson.
Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1: 10am HC, Jane Craske; 11am HC, John Stacey; 6.30pm HC, David Cruise.
Unitarian Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, NW3: 11am Morning Service, Danielle Wilson; 7pm Evening Service.
Essex Unitarian Church, Palace Gardens Terrace, W8: 11am, The Rev Johanna Boeke.
Paddington Chapel URC (Congregational-Presbyterian). St Mark's Church, Old Marylebone Road, W1: 11am, The Rev Barry Jones.
St Andrew's URC, Frognal Lane, NW3: 11am, The Rev David Agee.
St John's URC, Northwood: 10.30am Morning Service; 6.30pm Evening Service.
St Joseph & St Padarn (Society of St Pius X), Salterton Road, N7: 10am, 12noon Traditional Latin Mass.
St Anne & St Agnes (Lutheran), Gresham Street, EC2: 11am Choral HC, The Rev Thomas Bruch.
Temple Lodge (Christian Community), Queen Caroline Street, W6: 10.45am The Act of Consecration of Man, The Rev E. Capel.
Westminster Chapel (Independent Evangelical), Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11am, 6.30pm, Dr R.T. Kendall.
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2: 11am, 6.30pm, The Rev Brian Rood.
Westminster Meeting, Society of Friends, 52 St Martin's Lane, WC2: 11am Meeting for Worship.

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Television by Gerard Gilbert	**Star Trek** 6.25pm BBC2. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the hallowed sci-fi series, a showing of the original pilot episode *(above)*. No William Shatner, though *(9991600)*. **If I Were Prime Minister** 8pm C4. Germaine Greer's turn, and the fantasy manifesto includes payment of all mothers by the state, and compulsory vasectomies for all men – after having their semen frozen at the age of *16 (17705)*. **Edinburgh Nights** 11.15pm BBC2. With Sam Shepard and David Gonenberg *(306974)*.	**The Politician's Wife** 9pm C4. Juliet Stevenson *(above)* plays the worm who turns – a touching portrait of a wife of a Tory MP (Trevor Eve), who's been less than faithful *(2324407)*. **Film: Dick Tracy** (Warren Beatty 1990 US) 10.45pm BBC2. Beatty, Madonna and Al Pacino breath stylish life into the 1940s crime comics *(4146652)*. **Film: Shoot the Top** (Jack Clayton 1958 UK) 11.40pm C4. Laurence Harvey plays social climber Joe Lampton, sacrificing Simone Signoret at least *(2304288)*.	**Short Stories: Firing Line** 8.30pm C4. It used to be the case that schoolchildren hated the CCF – the Combined Cadet Force. Now they are flocking to it, according to Nicholas Cohen's film, much to their parents' dismay *(4179)*. **Inside Story: Betrayal** 10pm BBC1 *(above)*. A bride is betrayed on her wedding night; a Lottery winner walks out on his partner once he's pocketed the loot. These and other stories of betrayal make up the last in what has been a fine season of *Inside Story (211605)*.	**Inside Out: A Heart for Jo** 8pm C4. Joanna Lumb, who's 13, will die unless she can get a heart and lung transplant. But Joanna has Down's syndrome – and Down's children don't get transplants in this country... *(8377)*. **Secret History: Konkorde** 9pm C4 (above). The true story of the race to build a supersonic passenger airliner, between the Anglo-French team and the Soviet Union. [illegible] **Hancock** 10pm BBC2. Did [illegible] Railway Cuttings? Comedy heaven [illegible]	**The Fall Guy** 10pm BBC2 *(above)*. A spot of inverted *Beadle's About*, this new series has a certain Danny Brown on missions to stage practical jokes on practical jokers *(85799)*. **Parkinson: the Interviews** 11.15pm BBC1. From when the chat show was king – Peter Cook to Dustin Hoffman *(556168)*. **Film: Little Big Man** (Arthur Penn 1970 US) 11.55pm BBC1. What a coincidence [illegible] stars as Thomas Berger's novel is [illegible] an anti-Vietnam War tract *(8228967)*.
Radio by Robert Hanks	**The Diary of a Nobody** 8.40am R4. Read by Arthur Lowe. A real joy. **North of Watford** 9.05am R4. After a promising start last week, the anti-metropolitan talk show looks at the importance of minority languages.	**Building Values** 7.20pm R4. Michael O'Donnell's series about the fantastic variety of shapes that family life can take returns with the Richards of Streatham, and a 14-year-old boy accused of armed robbery.	**My Life as a Car** 11pm R4. Comedy: the excellent Phil Daniels plays a man who measures out his life in oil-changes – this week we meet both his first car, a two-tone blue Rover 100, and his first girlfriend.	**Golden Memories and Silver Tears – The Jim Reeves Story** 7.30pm R2. The title says it all – all except that George Hamilton IV is presenting it, 30 years after "Distant Drums" hit No 1. "Kitsch" hardly begins to cover it.	**Over the Counter** 12.25pm R4. [illegible] Walston takes a break from agriculture to talk to people who run small businesses: today it's [illegible] Rivers, "the cake queen of Warwickshire", who has baked and iced her way into big money.

Sunday television and radio

BBC 1

7.45 Moomin *(R) (1742437)*.
8.10 Playdays *(R) (S) (5362708)*.
8.30 Breakfast with Frost (Including 8.30 *News, Weather) (21708)*.
9.30 A Great Day Out. Vince Henderson at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate *(S) (6949963)*.
10.15 See Hear! *(S) (359741)*.
10.45 [film] **Across the Wide Missouri** (William Wellman 1951 US). Trapper Clark Gable marries the daughter of an Indian chief *(9071925)*.
12.00 CountryFile (Including *Weather for the Week Ahead) (S) (49760)*.
12.30 News, ThinkTank. Should the rich pay more tax than the poor? *(81673)*. *
1.30 EastEnders Omnibus *(R) (S) (9054708)*. *
2.50 [film] **North Sea Hijack** (Andrew V McLaglen 1980 US). Anthony Perkins hijacks a North Sea oil rig. Enter Roger Moore in a wet suit. How can you resist? *(35980692)*. *
4.35 Sister Wendy's Story of Painting. The nun talks *Goya (S) (1376470)*. *
5.05 Junior Masterchef 96. Simon Parkin dips a pinkie in the contestants' dishes *(S) (5577012)*. *
5.35 News, Weather *(726760)*. *
5.55 Regional News *(586692)*.
6.00 Songs of Praise. Worship from Clydeside *(S) (442673)*. *
6.35 Antiques Roadshow *(R) (S) (778760)*. *
7.20 [film] **Days of Thunder** (Tony Scott 1990 US). Not so much thunder as a soft, wet raspberry as this expensive action movie casts Tom Cruise as a stock-car racer with attitude. Nicole Kidman (this is the movie where Cruise wooed the Aussie actress) plays the doctor who mops his brow after he leaves the track at Daytona. Robert Duvall and Randy Quaid lend support *(S) (89023383)*. *
9.00 News, Weather *(398963)*. *
9.15 Stephen King's the Stand. 4/4. The conclusion of Stephen King's epic tosh about viruses, good and evil *(S) (893215)*. *
10.45 BBC Proms 1996. Sir Colin Davis conducts the European Union Youth Orchestra around some Sibelius and Richard Strauss *(S) (2186166)*.
12.00 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore looks into the discovery of "life on Mars" *(S) (4880155)*.
12.25 [film] **The Quiller Memorandum** (Michael Anderson 1966 UK). Neo-Nazis in Sixties Berlin occupy this decent Harold Pinter-adapted yarn. George Segal, Alec Guinness and Max von Sydow are the stars *(906529)*. *
2.05 Weather *(1110074)*. *To 2.05am.*

REGIONS. Wales: 12.00am Cricket. 12.45 The Sky at Night. 1.05 Film: The Quiller Memorandum 2.45 News Headlines; Weather. Scot: 12.00pm Landward.

BBC 2

6.15 Open University: Pure Maths *(3678857)*. 6.40 Maths Methods *(2531383)*. 7.05 King Lear: Workshop 2 *(3937215)*. * 7.30 Biology *(1712296)*. 7.55 Richard II – Character of a King *(5796334)*. 8.20 Managing the Health Service: Who Calls the Shots *(5340586)*. 8.45 Children and New Technology *(7800215)*. *
9.10 The Littlest Pet Shop *(S) (2805499)*.
9.30 Fully Booked. Guests include singer Louise and the band MN8, plus Glenda McKay from Emmerdale *(S) (122437)*.
12.00 Sunday Grandstand. With Sue Barker. 12.05 Cricket: the first part of a feature on cricketers who are expected to lead out senior sides in the coming years. 12.30 The Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship. Murray Walker provides the commentary from Oulton Park. 1.00 Golf: the final round of the Women's Open Championship from Woburn. 2.00 Showjumping: action from the Hickstead Derby. 4.00 Golf. 6.20 News Round-Up *(S) (4746960)*.
6.50 Student Choice 96. New four-part series, showing over the coming weeks, for people intending to go to college and university. Johnny Vaughan is the presenter *(S) (727012)*.
7.20 Rough Guide to the World. Magenta De Vine and Simon O'Brien visit Trinidad *(S) (294383)*. *
8.00 Paralympics. Helen Rollason presents action from the second day in Atlanta *(S) (893499)*.
8.40 Inside Story. *See Preview, p26 (R) (787499)*. *
9.30 Steptoe and Son. In an episode called "Live Now PAYE Later", non-contributor Albert makes a claim on the welfare state *(R) (95437)*. *
10.00 [film] **The Russia House** (Fred Schepisi 1990 US). The first US-produced film to be made in the Soviet Union, John le Carré's glasnost novel was stylishly adapted by Tom Stoppard. It casts Sean Connery as the publisher-cum-reluctant spy sent to Moscow to pick up a manuscript full of alleged nuclear secrets from Moscovite Michelle Pfeiffer. Cue romance *(S) (6128)*. *
12.00 [film] **Cross My Heart** (Jacques Fansten 1990 Fr). Terrific black comedy in which the friends of a 12-year-old boy (Sylvain Copans) rally round when his mother dies – hiding her body – so that he doesn't get sent to an orphanage. A charmer *(635529)*. *To 1.45am.*
2.00 The Learning Zone: Summer Nights: Book Lover Essentials *(19971)*. 4.00 Languages: Greek Language and People 5 & 6 *(6065529)*. 4.50 French Experience *(65088180)*. 5.00 Business and Work: The Tourist *(7548722)*. 5.50 Job Bank *(1659068)*. *To 6.00am.*

REGIONS. Wales: 1.00 Cricket. 3.30 Showjuming. 4.00 Cricket. 6.00 Golf.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. The Sunday Review. 6.30 News, Sport and Weather. 7.00 The Sunday Programme *(47234)*.
8.00 Disney's Road Hog *(8875079)*.
9.25 Tales from the Cryptkeeper *(R) (S) (7421031)*.
9.50 James Bond Jr *(S) (6652505)*.
10.15 Link *(S) (5142514)*. *
10.30 Morning Worship. From St Mary the Virgin, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex *(S) (72925)*. *
11.30 The Rock That Rolled Away *(2243401)*.
11.50 Many Questions. Guests include humanist Anne Helleher *(2135789)*.
12.30 Citytalk (Followed by *LWT Weather) (79499)*.
1.00 News and Weather *(45884079)*. *
1.10 The Agenda *(S) (7722470)*.
2.00 Capital Holidays. Rhodes, Cracow and a beach holiday in Cyprus *(S) (2321)*.
2.30 [film] **Ladyhawke** (Richard Donner 1985 US). Medieval fantasy adventure about a knight (Rutger Hauer) and his fair lady love (Michelle Pfeiffer) *who are victims of a curse that turns him into a* wolf by night and her into a hawk by day. Matthew Broderick and Leo McKern co-star, along with some neat special effects *(21742789)*.
4.40 Treasures. Caroline Langrishe looks at the antiques and bric-a-brac on a Devon farm *(1300437)*.
5.10 Upstairs, Downstairs *(R) (8705296)*.
6.10 London Tonight (Followed by *LWT Weather) (219418)*. *
6.25 News and Weather *(458470)*. *
6.35 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman *(S) (997708)*. *
7.30 Faith in the Future *(R) (S) (505)*. *
8.00 Cadfael. The first of two new adventures for Derek Jacobi's 12th-century detective monk. A young man with an urgent wish to join the order may have more reasons for doing so than he is admitting *(S) (69708)*. *
9.30 The World of James Bond – a Tribute to Cubby Broccoli. *See Preview, p26 (R) (S) (36429)*. *
10.30 News and Weather *(565741)*. *
10.45 [film] **Breathless** (Jim McBride 1983 US). Interesting enough attempt (doomed, of course) to remake *Jean-Luc Godard's Nouvelle Vague* classic. Richard Gere plays the cop-killing hustler, who, in a nice twist on the original (the setting here is LA, not Paris) falls in with a French student (Valerie Kaprisky) *(51141079)*. *
12.50 [film] **Blue Bayou** (Karen Arthur 1989 US). Bog-standard police thrills as new DA in town, Alfre Woodard, begins to suspect that her boss's new wife is involved in a society murder *(155513)*.
2.40 The Chart Show *(R) (S) (8588600)*.
3.40 Murder, She Wrote *(R) (8951513)*.
4.30 Night Shift *(R) (65071890)*.
4.35 Flux *(R) (S) (9751109)*. *To 5.30am.*

Channel 4

6.40 The Great Maratha *(2566079)*.
7.05 Madeline *(S) (8444321)*.
7.35 The Real Life Adventures of Professor Thompson *(1727128)*.
8.05 Droopy *(R) (S) (1170895)*.
8.20 Two Stupid Dogs *(S) (5680692)*.
8.50 Cadillacs and Dinosaurs *(S) (1757227)*.
9.20 Saved by the Bell *(R) (7420302)*. *
9.45 Sister Sister *(S) (350470)*.
10.15 Happy Days *(R) (2486470)*.
10.40 Mission Impossible *(5052857)*. *
11.40 The Waltons *(R) (2165760)*. *
12.40 [film] **The Best Years of Our Lives** (William Wyler 1946 US). *In 1944, Sam Goldwyn had seen a* photograph in *Time* magazine showing a group of marines coming home from the Second World War and the accompanying story suggested that they might be returning to jobs and homes with mixed emotions. The resulting film is long, by no means a classic, but fascinating all the same. Frederic March, Virginia Mayo and Harold Russell (as the machinist who has lost both his hands) are among the stars *(76376857)*.
3.50 Notes. Short film *(S) (3850586)*.
4.00 Crash Course. Repeat *Short Stories* film about folk on an intensive driving course *(R) (234)*. *
4.30 Too Close to Heaven. Final episode in the history of gospel music, as the Rev Jesse Jackson recalls how gospel was strongly linked to the civil rights movement *(S) (2242505)*.
5.35 Desmond's *(R) (S) (933963)*. *
6.05 Babylon 5. Highly involved cult sci-fi – not for the uninitiated. Sheridan organises an attack on the Shadows *(S) (368012)*. *
7.00 [film] **It Came from Beneath the Sea** (Robert Gordon 1955 US). A giant octopus with a grudge against San Francisco menaces a nuclear submarine in this cheapo sci-fi "shocker". Ray Harryhausen was in charge of the SFX *(65465)*.
8.30 Quetzal Cloud Forest. The wildlife of the cloud forest of the Chiapas region in Mexico *(R) (9234)*.
9.00 Brainspotting. Ken Campbell wraps his eyebrows *around such questions as "what is thought?" and* "what does it mean to be conscious?" *(S) (2673)*.
10.00 [film] **Awakenings** (Penny Marshall 1990 US). *See The Big Picture, p26 (S) (34358012)*. *
12.15 The Leeds Classic 1996. Round seven of cycling's 1996 World Cup *(5700190)*.
1.20 [film] **Kanoon** (BR Chopra 1960 Ind). Catch this – an Indian *film noir*. Social realist Chopra made this dark, lurid anti-capital-punishment piece concerning a lawyer forced to prosecute a thief for murder, although he is sure that his new father-in-law is responsible. In Hindi with English sub-titles *(74980616)*. *To 3.35am.*

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA
As London except: 2.00pm Cartoons (47078673). 2.20 Raising a Storm: The Making of Twister (87205234). 2.50 Film: The Scarlet Pimpernel (73935050). 5.25 Island Soldiers (2851876). 5.45 Homemaker (171050). 12.40am Film: Hot Money (3228797). 2.10am Cyber Cafe (9994567). 2.40am Best of British Motor Sport (111316). 3.10am The Crime Hour (8454838). 4.10am Flux (6475221). 5.05-5.30am Coach (3590819).

TYNE TEES/YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm *Tyne*: Newsweek (6558963). *Yorks*: De Medici Kitchen (6558963). 12.00 Murder, She Wrote (4051465). 2.55 Carnival of the Animals (5192505). 3.25 Film: Disaster on the Coastliner (88550296). 5.10 Cartoon (1554661). 5.20 Baywatch (8655857). 12.40am Highway to Heaven (6682635). 2.00am Film: Palay Khan (70646187). 4.45-5.30am Jobfinder (2524890).

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm Central Newsweek (6558963) 2.00 Right or Wrong (2321). 2.30 Film: Gold (30128). 4.30 Murder, She Wrote (3806418). 5.25 Raising a Storm: The Making of Twister (4295692). 5.50 Our House (299031). 12.40am Cool Vibes (8511093). 3.40am Jobfinder (758567). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (3388616).

HTV
As London except: 12.25pm *West*: Cat Crazy (6780302). *Wales*: Dogs with Dunbar (6780302). 2.00 Emmerdale (8269437). 2.40 International Touring Cars (5196321). 3.10 Film: Yanks (33907924). 5.30 Baywatch (131895). 12.40am Film: Hot Money (3228797). 2.10am Cyber Cafe (9994567). 2.40am Best of British Motor Sport (111316). 3.10am The Crime Hour (8454838). 4.10am Flux (6475221). 5.05-5.30am Coach (3590819).

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.30pm Warner Cartoon (2029895). 2.00 The Pier (87201418). 2.25 The Listings (81239499). 2.30 Summer Painting (352). 3.00 Behind the Ball (8128). 3.30 Warner Cartoon (4564055). 3.40 Film: Airport 80 – The Concorde (68454321). 5.45 The Making of Independence Day (171050). 12.40am Film: Hot Money (3228797). 2.10am Cyber Cafe (9994567). 2.40am Best of British Motor Sport (111316). 3.10am The Crime Hour (8454838). 4.10am Flux (6475221). 5.05-5.30am Coach (3590819).

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Westcountry Update (6558963). 2.00 Wild About Cornwall (2321). 2.30 Film: The Accidental Tourist (49345215). 4.55 Highway to Heaven (7950352). 5.45 The Woodward File (171050). 12.40am Film: Hot Money (3228797). 2.10am Cyber Cafe (9994567). 2.40am Best of British Motorsport (111316). 3.10am The Crime Hour (8454838). 4.10am Flux (6475221). 5.05-5.30am Coach (3590819).

S4C
As C4 except: 9.20am Saved by the Bell (7411654). 9.45 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (350470). 10.15 Boy Meets World (2486470). 10.40 Mission Impossible (5052857). 11.40 The Waltons (3142505). 12.40pm Sister Sister (6535012). 1.10 Film: The Little Foxes (1941) (83153128). 3.20 Babylon 5 (22121147). 4.15 Party of Five (5125147). 5.10 Saith Ar Y Sul (5592321). 5.30 Pobol Y Cwm (470). 7.25 Margaret (706789). 7.55 News (669079). 8.00 Pengelli (988031). 8.35 Ravel (710437). 9.40 Film: Water (189302). 11.30 Brainspotting (30857). 12.30am Short Stories (95190). 1.00-2.00am The Leeds Classic 1996 (83838).

Radio

Radio 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 2.00 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 Sound Sirens 8.00 John Peel 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-6.30am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
7.00am Don Maclean 9.05 Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs 11.00 Parkinson's Sunday Supplement 1.00 Desmond Carrington 3.00 Benny Green 4.00 The World of Percy Edwards 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Roger Royle 7.00 Hugh Scully 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 The Sixties at the Beeb 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
7.00am Sacred and Profane.
8.50 Choice of Three.
9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning.
12.30 Full Score.
1.00 New for Old: Myths Retold. Orpheus and Eurydice. (5/8).
1.15 The Sunday Concert.
2.55 Spirit of the Age.
3.55 Cheltenham Festival 1996. Susan Bickley (mezzo), Nash Ensemble. Includes: Prokofiev: Overture on Hebrew Themes. Tchaikovsky: Souvenir de Florence for string sextet, Op 70.
5.45 The Sunday Feature: More Things to Come. Jonathan Dobson presents a rare chance to hear Bliss's recordings of his music for *Things to Come*.
6.30 Rashomon: The Opera. Alejandro Vinao introduces two scenes from his opera.
7.00 Proms News.
7.30 BBC Proms 1996. Barbara Bonney (soprano), Oslo PO/Manfred Honeck. Rossini: Overture: The Italian Girl in Algiers. Grieg: Solveig's Song; Solveig's Lullaby; From Monte Pincio (Incidental music: Peer Gynt); En Svane, Op 25 No 2; Spring, Op 33 No 2. (8.00-8.20 Kings of the Mountain Land.) Mahler: Symphony No 5.
9.55 The Sunday Play: *The Amazons*. Role reversal comedy by Arthur Wing Pinero, in which three girls are brought up as boys by their eccentric mother. With Su Douglas and Emma Croft.
11.15 Traditional Music. (1/6).
11.45 Interpretations on Record. Jonathan Swain investigates recordings of Stravinsky's *Petrushka*. (5/8).

Choice
As the possibility of a single European currency looms, **Patriotic Money** (6.30pm R4) has Kevin Jackson *(left)* investigating the ways in which money can function as a symbol of nationhood: he starts off with the once-proud pound sterling.

1.00 Through the Night.
1.01 Prokofiev.
3.20 Fazil Say (piano).
4.20 Vocal Music by Fogliano and Isaac.
5.00-6.00am Sequence.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM; 198kHz LW)
6.00am News Briefing.
6.10 Something Understood.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.10 Sunday Papers.
7.15 On Your Farm.
7.40 Sunday.
8.50 The Week's Good Cause.
8.55 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.10 Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Morning Service. (2/3).
10.15 The Archers.
11.15 Mediumwave.
11.45 The New Europeans. (5/6).
12.15 Desert Island Discs. With conductor Andre Previn.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World This Weekend.
1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time.
2.30 The Classic Serial: *The Aran Islands*. By JM Synge. (2/2).
3.30 Pick of the Week.
4.15 Out of Africa. (1/3).
5.00 News; Journeys to the Ice.
5.30 Poets' Poetry Please!
5.50 Shipping Forecast.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Feedback.
6.30 Patriotic Money. (1/4). *See Choice, above.*
7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: *Time Hops*. With Sara Crowe. (4/5).
7.30 First Person Singular. (3/6).
8.00 (FM) Natural History Programme.
8.00 (LW) Open University: The New Curiosity Shop – Rocks on the Rails. 8.30 Diamonds, Rust and a Handful of Sand. 9.00 Flying in Birds. 9.20 Women's Studies: Sisters in Crime. 9.40 A Power on the Ground: Adult Education in Ireland.
8.30 (FM) The Politburo's Last Stand.
9.00 (FM) Pilkington in Ladakh. (1/2).
9.30 (FM) Costing the Earth.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 News.
10.15 Medicine Now.
10.45 Breakaway.
11.15 In Search of the National Interest. (2/5).
11.45 Seeds of Faith. (2/2).
12.00 News.
12.20 Bells on Sunday.
12.30 The Late Story: *The Trouble with Wagner* by Patricia Hannah.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Radio 5
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.05am Brief Lives 6.30 Brian Hayes 9.05 Sunday with Mair 11.35 Special Assignment 12.05 The Big Byte 12.30 The Game's Up 1.00 Sunday Sport 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Box 8.05 Clear the Air 8.35 Cult Fiction 9.00 Dallyn Worldwide 10.05 The Acid Test 10.35 No Prizes for Losers 11.00 Night Extra 11.35 SportsAmerica 12.05 Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00am Jane Markham 9.00 Romance 12.00 Celebrity Choice 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 The King of Instruments 4.00 Discoveries 7.00 Countdown Top 10 8.00 Evening Concert. Mendelssohn, Ravel, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov. 10.00 Howard's Week 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths

Virgin Radio
(1215, 1197-1208kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Graham Dene 2.00 Nicky Horne 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Gary Davies 2.00-6.00am Randall Lee Rose

World Service
(198kHz LW)
1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Development '96 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Short Story 2.45 On the Move 3.00 Newsday 3.30 China's Cultural Revolution 4.00 World News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Jazz for the Asking 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30 Off the Shelf 5.45-6.00am Country Style

Satellite

SKY ONE
6.00am Hour of Power *(82168)*. 7.00 Undun *(5818215)*. 12.00 Hit Mix (62334). 1.00 Star Trek *(18302)*. 2.00 The World at War *(96789)*. 3.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine *(15741)*. 4.00 WWF *(34876)*. 5.00 Great Escapes *(4321)*. 5.30 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers *(9514)*. 6.00 The Simpsons *(7147)*. 6.30 The Simpsons *(8499)*. 7.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine *(79437)*. 8.00 Melrose Place *(55857)*. 9.00 Jack Higgins' on Dangerous Ground *(58944)*. 11.00 Manhunter *(12215)*. 12.00 60 Minutes *(83364)*. 1.00 Sunday Comics *(19364)*. 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play *(8441068)*.

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Bedtime Story (1964) *(83050)*. 8.00 One Spy Too Many (1966) *(70741)*. 10.00 A Christmas Without Snow (1980) *(24963)*. 12.00 In Your Wildest Dreams (1991) *(93692)*. 2.00 Curse of the Viking Grave (1991) *(52760)*. *4.00 Follow the River* (1995) *(8760)*. 6.00 Torch Song (1993) *(73983215)*. 7.50 Renaissance Man (1994) *(37723654)*. 10.00 The Crow (1994) *(872079)*. 11.45 Betrayed by Love (1993) *(941128)*. 1.20 HEALTH (1979) *(679819)*. 3.00 A Part of the Family (1993) *(55884)*. 4.30-6.00am Follow the River (1995) *(51109)*.

MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am A Lawless Street (1955) *(81692)*. 8.00 Spiderman: Con Cape/Curse of Rava (1978) *(78383)*. 10.00 Rock-a-Bye Baby (1958) *(99609302)*. 11.45 The Remains of the Day (1993) *(66919383)*. 2.00 The Magic Bubble (1992) *(97895)*. 3.30 E! Features *(4673)*. 4.00 Bigfoot: The Unforgettable Encounter (1994) *(6302)*. 6.00 Reckless Kelly (1994) *(70166)*. 8.00 Lassie (1994) *(42383)*. 10.00 The Getaway (1994) *(587499)*. 11.55 The Movie Show *(177760)*. 12.25 Past Tense (1994) *(995068)*. 2.00 Desperate Remedies (1993) *(604451)*. 3.35-6.00am Black Fox: The Price of Peace (1993) *(65896136)*.

SKY MOVIES GOLD
12.00noon Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd (1952) *(75321)*. 1.30 A Day's Pleasure (1919) *(51166)*. 2.00 The Millionairess (1960) *(34302)*. 4.00 The Damned Don't Cry! (1950) *(7692)*. 6.00 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948) *(54166)*. 8.00 To Have and Have Not (1944) *(26383)*. 10.00 Riot (1969) *(403893)*. 11.45 Death Wish 2 (1982) *(699128)*. 1.25 The Sheep Has Five Legs (1954) *(311258)*. 3.10-4.55am The Damned Don't Cry! (1950) *(656109)*.

UK GOLD
7.00am Record Breakers *(2205383)*. 7.30 Blue Peter *(2224418)*. 8.00 Animal Magic *(7813302)*. 8.30 Jackanory *(1551012)*. 8.45 Camberwick Green *(1589895)*. 9.00 Survivors *(7803925)*. 9.00 Dr Who *(6588079)*. 11.00 Dr Who *(8438857)*. 1.00 Bless This House (1972) *(6582895)*. 3.00 The Bill *(74863944)*. 5.20 Porridge *(4538321)*. 6.00 The Good Old Days *(5571876)*. 6.55 Dick Emery *(1324741)*. 7.25 The Les Dawson Show *(7108741)*. 8.00 The Duchess of Duke Street *(99232383)*. 9.05 Boys from the Blackstuff *(58012895)*. 10.20 The Bob Monkhouse Show *(5358708)*. 11.15 She Devil *(4522470)*. 1.05 Richard Digance's the Greatest Bits *(8440906)*. 2.00-7.00am Shopping at Night *(7107567)*.

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Karting *(60050)*. *8.00* Mountain Bikes *(67215)*. 8.30 Superbikes *(73296)*. 10.30 World Sport Special *(79050)*. 11.00 Goals on Sunday *(77166)*. 12.00 Super League *(71012)*. 2.00 Watersports *(32505)*. 3.00 Super Sunday *(4384586)*. 7.00 Super League *(921760)*. 9.30 Football *(412437)*. 12.00-3.00am WWF *(2320906)*. 5.30-7.00am Superbikes *(23819)*.

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Soccer *(9082215)*. 11.00 Watersports *(2463050)*. 12.00 Superbikes *(5403925)*. 2.00 Cricket *(9913741)*. 7.30 Finish Line *(8186741)*. 8.00 Superbikes *(5242055)*. 10.00 Cricket *(5676492)*. 11.00 Sports Gold *(2451215)*. 12.00-1.00am Sports Gold *(8765168)*.

LIVE TV
6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 *Mind & Body 8.00 The Why Files* 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Fate & Fortune 9.30 The Fashion Show 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Mind & Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Revelations 12.30 The Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Fate & Fortune 2.00 Sport 3.00 Canary Wharf 4.30 The Why Files 5.00 Revelations 5.30 Looking for Love 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sunday Sport Live 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 Revelations 8.00 The Why Files 8.30 Spanish Archer 9.03 Fate & Fortune 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 Sport 10.30 Stand Up 11.03 Fate & Fortune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.03 Revelations 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30-6.00am Night-Time Programmes

Pastimes

Chess William Hartston

Anyone can win a brilliant game. If you want to spot a really good player, look at the games he loses. Take this game lost by Luke McShane in round nine of the current British Championship. Taken by surprise by the Four Pawns Attack, he replied passively with 6...Nbd7? White barged on with 7.e5 and 11.h4 and after 12.h5, Black's game was critical. But 12-year-old Luke fought back resourcefully, correctly calculating at move 14 that 14...Ndf6 15.Nxe6 Bxe6 16.Qxe6+ Kh8 17.Rh3 would leave White with too strong an attack, and instead giving up the exchange for two pawns. White's attack persisted, but he needed to give back his extra material, then find the fine idea of 31.Rc1! (much better than the obvious Bc4) to win the game. Black's resistance in this game is as impressive as any he has won.

White: Graeme Buckley
Black: Luke McShane

1 d4 Nf6	19 0-0-0 Bxd5
2 c4 g6	20 cxd5 Ng6
3 Nc3 Bg7	21 Bc3 Nd6
4 e4 d6	22 Qg4 Re8
5 f4 0-0	23 Qh3 b5
6 Nf3 Nbd7	24 b3 b4
7 e5 Ne8	25 Ba1 h6
8 Qe2 c5	26 Rxh6 Bxh6
9 d5 e6	27 Qxh6 Nf5
10 dxe6 fxe6	28 Qg5 Nd4
11 h4 dxe5	29 Bxd4 cxd4
12 h5 gxh5	30 Kb2 Kg7
13 Rxh5 exf4	31 Rc1 Re7
14 Ng5 e5	32 Rc6 Re8
15 Ne6 Qf6	33 d6 Qe6
16 Nxf8 Nxf8	34 Rc7+ Kf8
17 Nd5 Qf7	35 Qh6+ 1-0
18 Bd2 Be6	

Perplexity

What is the next letter in this series:
T S E T R N S ... ?
and this one:
S T N D R D T ... ?
and finally, try this one:
E E I L P P R T ... ?

(they have no connection with each other whatsoever). A Larousse *Desk Reference Encyclopedia* will be awarded to the first correct answer opened on 28 August. Answers to: Saturday Pastimes, the *Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

3 August answers:
Steven Redgrave (starved revenge); Coxless pairs (closes praxis), Gold medals (small dodge) **Winner:** DG Browning (Leicester).

Bridge Alan Hiron

North overbid slightly and South was a little conservative *on this deal, but it all ended* up in the right contract. The only snag was that South did not find the right approach after the opening lead had removed one of dummy's entries prematurely.

North opened 1♢ and South responded 1♡. A seven-card suit is always exciting, and North rated his hand as worth a rebid of 3♢. As there was no clear route ahead, South bid 3NT and all passed.

West led ♣J and declarer could see problems in establishing the long diamond suit. If he continued with a low diamond to the jack, it might be possible for both defenders to hold off. Then, with only two outside entries to the table, the suit could not be used.

Game all; dealer South

North
♠A K
♡5 4 2
♢Q 10 9 7 6 5 4
♣A

West
♠10 8 2
♡K 10 8 7
♢K
♣J 10 9 7 4

East
♠Q 9 7 4
♡J 6
♢A 8 3 2
♣8 6 2

South
♠J 6 5 3
♡A Q 9 3
♢J
♣K Q 5 3

It seemed a little better to rely on a 3-2 break in diamonds, *so declarer led* ♢Q from dummy at trick two. Then, with the lead still on the table, it would not matter if both defenders held off. It did not work out like that. West won the diamond lead but, when the suit broke 4-1, it could not be brought in and South made only eight tricks.

A better chance was to come to hand with ♡A first and then lead ♢J. Can you see the point? If West has to win with a singleton honour, the diamonds can be used and, if West is able to play low, declarer can overtake and rely on a 3-2 break in the suit.

It may look dangerous to release ♡A, but South's hearts are just good enough. If East wins a diamond lead and plays hearts, South simply covers whatever is led, and can lose at most two tricks in the suit.

The big picture

Awakenings
Sun 10pm C4

Robin Williams made his name as a manic stand-up comic. He successfully converted that persona into larger-than-life funsters in such films as *Popeye*, and *Mrs Doubtfire*. All the while, however, he has shown a surprising adeptness at more serious roles in movies like *The World According to Garp* and *Dead Poets' Society*. In Penny Marshall's moving, Oscar-nominated *reading of Oliver Sacks'* book, he plays a doctor coaxing back to life a sleeping-sickness patient (Robert De Niro) who has been in a coma for 30 years.

Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND
by Gerard Gilbert

Dancing in the Street Sat 9.50pm BBC2
Cadfael Sun 8pm ITV
Inside Story Sun 8.40pm BBC2
Brainspotting Sun 9pm C4
The World of James Bond Sun 9.30pm ITV

Did pheasants used to hop squawking around our woodlands in the 12th century? Weren't these game birds a far later introduction to our shores? I may be wrong, but **Cadfael** (Sun ITV), like any historical drama, inspires this sort of pedantry.

In case you've never caught the show, *Cadfael* is a sleuthing medieval monk, played by Derek Jacobi at his most jolly and benign. The pheasant in question rears up in front of a horse ridden by leering, sneering Ian Reddington (you might remember him as Tricky Dicky in *EastEnders*), soon to be felled by a jewel-encrusted dagger. Is his death somehow connected to the young nobleman who has come to Cadfael's monastry desperate to be taken on as a novice?

Central Television has gone to considerable lengths to make its period drama authentic – filming it in Hungary because the English countryside is too full of electricity pylons, out-of-town shopping centres and oilseed rape – a pointed lesson to all the Merrie Englanders who will no doubt help make up the audience. Anyway, it's quite diverting, in a surprisingly subdued sort of way.

A technical hitch the other week means that the **Inside Story** (Sun BBC2) about the Dionne quintuplets gets a second, fully-functioning showing – quite rightly, because this is a fascinating and moving film, given a boost of topicality by the recent controversy over the octuplet mother-to-be (or not to be).

The Dionne quintuplets were identical girls born to a dirt-poor French-Canadian farmer's wife in 1934, and almost immediately whisked away to a ready-built hospital by their doctor – a chipper-looking man obsessed with germs. There they grew up as a freak show – on one public holiday, 10,000 people queued up to watch them at play in their open-air "pen" (more like an enclosure at the zoo). Three of the five are still living, and give their first on-camera interview to producer/director Jane Treays.

The otherwise admirable **Dancing in the Street** (Sat BBC2) comes to a somewhat cursory-seeming conclusion, yanking us from hip-hop and rap to techno and rave music, and in the process exposing the series's one weakness – that on occasion, Sean Barrett's narration comes on like a Shell promotional short circa 1965. Strangely for a series that was a few weeks ago at pains to illustrate the connection between LSD and psychadelic rock, there is not one mention of the word Ecstasy – surely a much wider socio-musical phenomenon than acid ever was.

Brainspotting (Sun C4) continues with Ken Campbell playing chess with Dodger the dog, shaking hands with COG the robot, and going through several changes of woolly hat in his search for the meaning of consciousness. No such strenuous mental activity from **The World of James Bond – a Tribute to Cubby Broccoli** (Sun ITV). The measure of machismo in Bond-film circles seems to be the swimming pool – and contributors seem happiest posing in front of theirs. The recently deceased Broccoli has, or had, a rather swank Italiante affair, complete with Doric columns and pencil-thin cedars. Director Guy Hamilton has a rather more modest pool, complete with an underpowered-looking fountain, in what looks like Provence. As always, though, Sean Connery knows not to flaunt it, and is happy to be filmed on the veranda of his home in Nassau.

The big match

Wimbledon v Manchester United
Sat 10.45pm BBC1

He may have missed out on signing Alan Shearer, but Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson *(above)* made some typically canny purchases during the summer – and all for a total well below the £15m Newcastle United paid for the England striker. Fergie picked up the Czech Republic star Karel Poborsky, one of the finds of Euro 96, as well as Jordi, the son of Johan Cruyff, for £1m from Barcelona. Wimbledon may not be looking forward to opening the FA Carling Premiership season against a Double team strengthened in this way.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.25 News, Weather *(2966036).*
7.30 Children's BBC: *Oscar's Orchestra. 7.55 Felix the Cat.* 8.10 Robinson Sucroe. 8.30 Bucky O'Hare. 8.55 The Raccoons. 9.20 Mighty Max. 9.45 *Grange Hill. 10.10 Sweet Valley High. 10.35 The* O Zone.
10.55 FILM **Asterix and the Big Fight** (Phillipe Grimond *1988 Fr/W Ger). Ron Moody, Brian Blessed and* Sheila Hancock provide the voices for the much loved Goscinny-Uderzo cartoon Gauls and Romans *(9024017).*
12.12 Weather *(1578340).*
12.15 Grandstand: 12.20 Football Focus. Gary Lineker *takes over the chair. 1.00 News. 1.05 Cricket* Focus. 1.30 Showjumping: coverage of the Derby Meeting Speed Classic from Hickstead. 1.50 *Racing from Newbury: 2.00 Andover Rated* Stakes. 2.05 Showjumping: further coverage of the Derby Meeting Speed Classic from Hickstead. 2.25 *Racing from Newbury: 2.30 Swettenham Stud St* Hugh's Stakes. 2.35 Golf: further coverage of the Weetabix Women's Open Championship from *Woburn Golf and Country Club. 2.55 Racing from* Newbury: 3.00 Tripleprint Geoffrey Freer Stakes. 3.10 Golf 4.45 Final Score *(39951727).*
5.15 News, Weather *(9233104). **
5.25 Regional News and Weather *(3439765).*
5.30 Cartoon *(891562).*
5.40 FILM **Coneheads** (Steve Barron *1993 US). Slow* transition to the big screen for the *Saturday Night Live* characters – a family of aliens who crash-land in Middle American suburbia – guaranteed that they are far from fresh, and the reheated quality of the material must have helped it sink at the box office. Dan Aykroyd, who co-scripted, leads, helped on by the younger generation of *Saturday Night Livers*, including Ellen DeGeneres *(4748017). **
7.00 Due South. Cute Mountie in Chicago comedy drama. Fraser gets uptight when his father's killer is once more on the loose *(S) (983291). **
7.50 The National Lottery Live *(S) (667185).*
8.05 Casualty *(R) (S) (652630). **
8.55 News and Sport; Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) *(423098). **
9.15 Stephen King's the Stand. 3/4. Continuing this adaptation of Stephen King's bizarre virus-on-the-loose novel. Mother Abigail's band of followers is growing, but the Dark Man's evil regime is also getting stronger. What does it all say about the current state of the American psyche? *(S) (911611).*
10.45 Match of the Day. *Highlights from Wimbledon v* Manchester United, and Middlesborough v Liverpool *(S) (9945291).*
11.50 FILM **The Perfect Murder** *(Zafar Haj 1987* UK/Ind). Dim and shoddy screen version (from Merchant-Ivory) of one of HRF Keating's Inspector *Ghote mysteries and starring Naseeruddin Shah as* the Bombay detective *(317307).*
1.20 Weather *(8829465). To 1.25am.*

BBC 2

6.00 Open University: Berlin: Unemployment and the *Family (3606630). 6.25 Modelling Drug Therapy (3625765).* 6.50 Organic Chemistry *(2593123).* 7.15 Care in the Community *(3984123). 7.40 From Snowdon to the Sea (1774036). 8.05 Open* Advice: The Three Degrees *(5623307).* 8.30 Changing Voices *(7845388).* 8.55 Understanding *Music: Words and Music (7857123). * 9.20* Writing a Report *(1247272).* 10.10 Opinion Polls: The Spiral of Silence *(2432659).* 10.35 Changing *Berlin: Changing Europe (5401253). * 11.00* Putting Training to Work *(5148036).* 11.25 News Stories *(8401098).* 11.50 Changing Climate *(7758009).*
12.15 Miss-Takes *(R) (3194611).*
12.25 The Natural World. The life and times of a female leopard *(R) (7072901).*
1.20 FILM **Macbeth** (Orson Welles 1948 US). Showing in its original version, it's time to reappraise Orson Welles' take on the Scottish play. The budget restrictions are legendary, but in a sense they helped give it it's truly original feel. Never before or since has Shakespeare been filmed as a B-movie film noir *(39626098). **
3.05 FILM **Jane Eyre** (Robert Stevenson 1944 US). Orson Welles again, this time only in an acting role – albeit a dominating one. He plays Mr Rochester to Joan Fontaine's Jane. The rest is pure Hollywood gothic, co-written by Aldous Huxley, of all people, and co-starring a young Elizabeth Taylor *(58841036). **
4.40 FILM **Ferry to Hong Kong** (Lewis Gilbert 1959 UK). Odd little action movie starring Curt Jurgens as a drunken Austrian drifter onboard Orson Welles's ferry between Hong Kong and Macao. Jurgens' character redeems himself when a storm threatens the ship *(98682949). **
6.30 Paralympics. Coverage of the opening ceremony from Atlanta and the first day of competition in the 1996 Paralympics. The ceremony features Christopher Reeve, Liza Minnelli, Carly Simon and Aretha Franklin *(S) (802727).*
7.15 News and Sport; Weather *(980388). **
7.30 BBC Proms 1996 (With Radio 3) The BBC Symphony Orchestra's conductor Jiri Belohlavek's first Prom with the ensemble features music from his Czech homeland. Dvorak's *Te Deum*, Martinu's *Field Mass* and Janacek's *Sinfonietta* are contrasted with Mozart's *Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat*, performed by Richard Goode (Subsequent programmes may run late) *(S) (32369456).*
9.50 Dancing in the Street: a Rock and Roll History Rap, house and hard-core conclude this exemplary series *See Preview above (S) (931765). **
10.50 Takin' Over the Asylum *(R) (S) (462494). **
11.40 FILM **The More Things Change** (Robyn Nevin 1986 Aus). Comedy-drama about an Australian *couple (Judy Morris and Barry Otto) who decide to* leave the rat race and buy a small farm (Followed by Weatherview) *(S) (420611). To 1.15am.*

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Cabbage Patch *Dolls. 6.35 Bananas in Pyjamas. 7.10 Barney and* Friends. 7.40 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 Masked Rider *(4947388).*
9.25 Scratchy & Co *(S) (62700630).*
11.30 The Chart Show *(S) (99765).*
12.30 Mad Science *(30123).*
1.00 News & Weather *(24841949). **
1.05 Local News, Weather *(24833920). **
1.10 Movies, Games and Videos *(6340659).*
1.45 The Making of Eraser. Behind the scenes of the new Arnold Schwarzenegger movie *(58829765).*
2.10 Airwolf *(R) (7416497).*
3.00 Thunder in Paradise. Adventure series set in tropical Florida *(S) (1732524).*
3.50 RoboCop *(S) (1191036).*
4.45 News; Sports Results; Weather *(4277982). **
5.05 London Tonight; Sports Results (Followed by LWT Weather) *(2880388). **
5.20 seaQuest2032. A ruthless magnate wants control of the planet's fresh water supply *(S) (8688185). **
6.10 Body Heat More physical jerks refereed by Mike Smith, Sally Gunnell and Jeremy Guscott. Tonight's tests include a 2 x 200m indoor sprint and a training stint with the Royal Navy *(S) (226123). **
6.55 You Bet! Carol Vorderman, Andrew O'Conner and Carolyn Marshall take on more challenges including abseiling on a hot-air balloon. Last in series, you might be glad to hear *(S) (198104). **
7.55 News; Weather; Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) *(651524). **
8.10 The Big, Big Talent Show. Opportunity knocks for five more wannabees in the Jonathan Ross-hosted "talent" show *(S) (644611).*
9.00 FILM **Demolition Man** (Marco Brambilla 1993 US). The year is 2035, and a Utopian California is run along Politically Correct lines - no red meat, coffee, violence, sex or post-coital smoking. Enter time-travelling goodie and baddie Sylvester Stallone and Wesley Snipes and their unreconstructed late 20th-century ways. Part satire, part action movie, this is one of Sly's most purely enjoyable movies to date. Sandra Bullock plays the inevitable love interest *(S) (34522678). **
11.05 FILM **1941** (Steven Spielberg 1979 US). Spielberg's underrated carnival of a movie, recreating the panic set in 1941 Los Angeles by Pearl Harbour. Slapstick and evocative of the era, with fairly wild performances from the likes of John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Nancy Allen and Ned Beatty *(S) (35804340). **
1.15 Tropical Heat (Followed by ITN News Headlines) *(R) (S) (7984895).*
2.10 American Gladiators *(S) (8248963).*
3.00 E! News Review *(R) (8364079).*
3.45 God's Gift *(R) (9116596).*
4.40 ITV Sport Classics *(R) (43689470).*
5.05 Coach *(R) (S) (3523147).*
5.30 News *(64741). To 6.00am.*

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street *(R) (86098).*
7.00 The Magic School Bus *(R) (S) (11185).*
7.30 The Ferals *(S) (23920).*
8.00 Gaelic Games. In the first of the All-Ireland football semi-finals, Mayo play Kerry for a place in the 1996 Final *(17543).*
9.00 The Morning Line *(S) (19814).*
10.00 High Five. Scuba diving in the Red Sea *(S) (28938).*
10.30 The Northumberland All Terrain Marathon. The men's one mile time trial, the track at Hexham, and the men and women's fifth stage at Embleton Bay. Presented by Christina Boxer *(S) (86814).*
11.00 Trans World Sport *(82140).*
12.00 Rawhide *(17272).*
1.00 FILM **Boy's Town** (Norman Taurog 1938 US). Spencer Tracy stars in his Oscar-winning role of the Omaha priest Father Flannigan, founder of a school for juvenile delinquents. With Mickey Rooney and *Henry Hull (39640678). **
2.40 Contact High *(S) (1422562).*
2.50 FILM **The Man Called Peter** (Henry Koster 1955 US). Biopic of Scottish-born Protestant minister Peter Marshall, played by Richard Todd, who became Chaplain to the US Senate *(21782307). **
5.05 Brookside Omnibus *(R) (S) (2704494). **
6.30 The Middle Ages Ray Gosling meets more people attempting a mid-life change of direction: a housewife from near Bristol who is studying to be an opera singer, a Cornish couple get away from their careers on Lundy island, and a mother re-sits her A Levels *(S) (630). **
7.00 News, Weather *(765665).*
7.10 Europe on the Road. The focus shifts to Italy, as TV journalist Maria Cuffaro presents a programme against the backdrop of the Palio del Golfo in La Spezia, where fishermen race each other to be the first home with their catch *(S) (972185). **
8.00 Vets in the Wild. Young vets working with Barkley Hastings learn about hand-rearing animals and the tools of a vet's trade, before going to Zimbabwe to help solve the mystery of animals dying on a game reserve *(R) (7475). **
9.00 ER. Ross takes a stint as chief resident while Greene skips work to be near Jennifer *(R) (S) (752185). **
9.55 Paul Merton – the Second Series *(R) (S) (501036).*
10.25 FILM **Wild Target** (Pierre Salvadori 1993 Fr). Mordant Gallic comedy in which fastidious hitman Jean Rochefort takes on messenger Guillaume (son of Gerard) Depardieu as his apprentice *(154746).*
12.00 Legend of Aristan. Manga tale set in AD 320. Followed by Beastly Behaviour: Deer *(2733857).*
1.15 The New Twilight Zone. Followed by Beastly Behaviour: Dragonfly *(88925).*
1.45 Full Frontal *(87296).*
2.15 Squawkietalkie *(R) (S) (92055). **
2.45 Dweebs *(S) (42596). To 3.15am.*

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos *(30123). 1.10* Film: *Battle beyond the Stars (4888920).* 2.55 Airwolf *(1186833).* 3.50 Baywatch *(1191036).* 5.15 Cartoons *(3435949).* 1.15am Film: Quicker than the Eye *(722876).* 2.55am Film: A Star is Born *(12938578).* 5.00-5.30am International Touring Cars *(79760).*

TYNE TEES/YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos *(30123).* 1.10 Thunder in Paradise *(7763098).* 2.00 Cartoons *(81276920).* 2.05 Film: A Billion for *Boris (681384).* 3.50 Airwolf *(1191036).* 5.10 *fyne:* Full Time *(2788479).* Yorks: Scoreline (3436678). 5.15 Yorks: Cartoon Time *(3435949).* 1.15am Film: BL Stryker – Grand Theft Hotel *(613654).* 3.00am War of the Worlds *(88842151).* 3.55am Customs Classified *(2639370).* 4.35am Murder, She Wrote *(8978166).* 5.25-5.30am Sound Bites *(6074470).*

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm Premiere *(30123).* 1.40 Baywatch *(7082982).* 2.35 Wanted Dead or Alive *(5137678).* 3.05 Film: The Likely Lads *(88512036).* 5.10 Central Match – Goals Extra *(2788479).* 4.40am Jobfinder *(4851383).* 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye *(3311944).*

HTV
As London except: 12.30pm *West:* No Naked Flames *(30123). Wales:* Go Getters *(6581291).* 12.55 *Wales:* Cartoon Time *(40902185).* 1.10 House *(6340659).* 1.45 Movies, Games & Videos *(750982).* 2.15 Film: Up the Front *(361562).* 3.55 *Baywatch (6164678).* 5.10 *Wales:* Let's Go *(2788479).* 1.15am Film: Quicker than the Eye *(722876).* 2.55am Film: A Star is Born *(12938578).* 5.00-5.30am International Touring Cars *(79760).*

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games & Videos *(30123).* 1.10 Meridian Motor Sport *(83188814).* 1.40 Beach Volleyball *(58810017).* 2.10 World of Sailing *(58814982).* 2.40 Warner Cartoon *(4372475).* 2.55 Airwolf *(1186833).* 3.50 *Baywatch (1191036).* 1.15am Film: Quicker than the Eye *(722876).* 2.55am Film: A Star is Born *(12938578).* 5.00-5.30am International Touring Cars *(79760).*

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games & Videos *(30123).* 1.10 The Making of Independence Day *(83188814).* 1.40 Film: Hannibal Brooks *(10181388).* 3.35 Cartoon *(7914776).* 3.50 Airwolf *(1191036).* 5.15 Cartoon *(3435949).* 1.15am Film: Quicker than the Eye *(722876).* 2.55am Film: A Star is Born *(12938578).* 5.00-5.30am International Touring Cars *(79760).*

S4C
As C4 except: 6.00am Sesame Street *(33494).* 7.00 The Magic School Bus *(11185).* 10.00 High Five: Red Sea *(28938).* 10.30 The Northumberland Challenge *(86814).* 11.00 Transworld Sport *(9104).* 12.00 The Avengers *(31974).* 1.00 Film: Boys Town (1938) *(10456).* 2.50 Film: The Man Called Peter (1955) *(5124104).* 5.05 Brookside *(5533678).* 6.30 Boy Meets World *(530).* 7.00 Newyddion Nos *(4825).* 7.15 Size Fach: Llanfyllin Gogleddol *(285253).* 8.00 Cregyn 96 Uchelbwyntau *(9123).* 9.00 True Stories: Julia's Daughter *(9340).* 10.25 Film: Wild Target (1993) *(764678).* 12.00midnight The Legend of Aristan *(61654).* 1.15 The Twilight Zone *(88925).* 2.15am Squawkietalkie *(92055).* 2.45-3.15am Dweebs: The Karls Crisis *(42596).*

Radio

Radio 1
(97.6-99.3MHz FM)
7.00am Kevin Greening **10.00** Dave Pearce **12.30** Danny Baker **2.30** Jo Whiley **5.00** John Peel **7.00** Lovegroove Dance Party with Danny Rampling **9.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **12.00** The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite **2.00** Essential Mix: Norman Jay **4.00-6.30am** Charlie Jordan

Radio 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00am Mo Dutta **8.05** Brian Matthew **10.00** Steve Wright's Saturday Show **1.00** Talking Comedy **1.30** The "What If" Show **2.00** Judi Spiers **4.00** Nick Barraclough *5.00 Bob Dylan: 1966* and All That! **6.00** Steve Earle in Concert **7.00** Ned Sherrin's Review of Revue **7.30** A Feast of Opera **9.30** David Jacobs **10.00** Sheridan Morley *12.05* Adnan Finighan **4.00-6.00am** Mo Dutta

Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
7.00am Musical Europe.
9.02 Proms News.
9.30 Humphrey Burton's Masterworks.
12.00 Off the Record.
1.00 News; Placido Domingo. Donizetti: L'elisir d'amore. *Michael Oliver introduces this* rustic comedy in which the simple peasant Nemorino wins his beloved Adina thanks to the help of a couple of bottles of Bordeaux supplied by the quack Dulcamara. Sung in Italian. Placido Domingo (tenor) as Nemorino, Ileana Cotrubas (soprano) as Adina, Geraint Evans *(baritone) as Dulcamara*, Ingvar Wixell, (baritone) as Belcore, Chorus and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden/John Pritchard. (5/9).
3.20 Youth Orchestras of the World.
5.00 Jazz Record Requests.
5.45 Born Difficult.
6.30 The Beethoven Cello Sonatas.
7.30 BBC Proms 1996. Live from *the Royal Albert Hall, London.* Judith Howarth (soprano), Ivan Kusnjer (baritone), Richard Goode (piano), BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Jiri Belohlavek. Dvorak: Te Deum. Mozart: Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat, K595. (8.30-8.50 Royal Albert Hall. A look behind the scenes at the great *concert hall in its 125th anniversary year.*) Martinu: Field Mass. *Janacek: Sinfonietta.*
10.00 Books Abroad. (4/6).
10.30 Drums to the Fore. Brian Morton introduces a concert given in the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham, by two bands led by drummers.
1.00 Through the Night. With Donald Macleod.
1.01 Jazz.
2.10 Smetana and Dvorak.
3.30 Early Music.
5.00 Sequence.
5.55-7.00am Open University.

Choice

Tim Whewell remembers how Boris Yeltsin defended democracy, five years ago this week in the Moscow coup attempt against Gorbachev *(left)*: **The Politburo's Last Stand** (4pm R4). Earlier, this week's edition of **The Eurocrats** (11am R4), introduces the men dedicated to stamping out Euro fraud.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM, 198kHz LW)
6.00am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.50 Prayer for the Day.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 Today.
8.58 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.05 Sport on 4.
9.30 Breakaway.
10.00 News; Loose Ends. Ned Sherrin and guests live from the Pleasance Theatre at the Edinburgh Festival.
11.00 News; The Eurocrats. *See Choice, above.*
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent.
12.00 Inside Money. (6/6).
12.25 *On Baby Street.* Comedy-drama about three pregnant women, written by Jenny Eclair and Julie Balloo. (6/6).
12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.
1.10 In the Dock. The Press. Sue Cameron cross-examines some of our key institutions and professions to see how well they *serve us. (4/6).*
1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Cargoes. Technology. Campbell McMurray examines the intricacies of how modern ships stay upright, and reports on how they are operated in order to make a profit.
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: *Hindle Wakes.* Stanley Houghton's classic Lancashire comedy, written in *1911, in which Fanny Hawthorn* slips away from the village festival to meet with wealthy millowner's son Alan Jeffcoate. With Ewan Hooper, Sue Johnston and Colin Prockter.
4.00 News; The Politburo's Last *Stand. Five years ago, Muscovites* threw up barricades against the hardline Communists who tried to overthrow President Gorbachev. Would they show the same heroism *now? Former Moscow correspondent Tim Whewell, returns* to meet the defenders of democracy. *See Choice, above.*
4.30 Science Now.
5.00 File on 4.
5.40 Tidal Talk from the Rock Pool. With Dame Judi Dench.
5.50 *Shipping Forecast.*
5.55 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.25 The Mark Steel Solution. (1/4).
6.50 Offspring.
7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. A look at the role played in the creative process by the artist's studio, from the Parisian atelier of bohemian folklore to a contemporary casting foundry in East London. For artists such as Alberto Giacometti, who did not leave his cluttered Montparnasse studio even at the height of his fame, the studio forms an intimate, private universe.
7.50 On These Days.
8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: *His Last Bow.* The Red Circle. Another classic mystery starring *Clive Merrison as Holmes and* Michael Williams as Dr Watson. (3/8).
9.35 Classics with Kay.
9.50 Ten to Ten.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 News.
10.15 Saturday Night Theatre: *Pen Pals.* Culture clash drama by Peter Tinniswood in which two pen pals – one respectably married to a dentist in Bristol, the other free-wheeling between San Francisco and Florida – are drawn towards a fateful meeting at Gatwick airport. With Jane Lapotaire and *Lorelei King.*
11.15 The British Film Studios. Elstree. (1/6).
11.45 Who Goes Home.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Story: *Malvolio's Revenge*, by John Mortimer.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.50 Inshore Forecast.
5.51 Bells on Sunday.
5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast.

Radio 5
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.05am Dirty Tackle **6.30** Brian Hayes at Breakfast **9.05** Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker **11.05** The 21st Century and How to Survive It **11.35** If I Ruled the World **12.00** Midday *Edition 12.15 Sportscall* **1.05** Sport on Five **6.06** Six-O-Six **7.00** Saturday Superleague **8.05** The Treatment **9.05** Dallyn on Saturday **10.35** Word Up! **11.00** Night Extra **12.05** Night Talk **2.05** Up All Night **5.00-6.00am** *Morning Reports*

Classic FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00am Jane Markham. **9.00** Countdown. **12.00** Gardening Forum. **1.00** Alan Mann. **3.00** Nick Bailey. **6.00** Menuhin: Master Musician. **7.00** The World Opera Season. Puccini: Tosca. Jane Eaglen, Dennis O'Neill, Gregory Yurisich. **10.00** The Quiz. **12.00** Andre Leon. **4.00** Travel Guide. **5.00-6.00am** Michael Fanstone.

Virgin Radio
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.00am Janey Lee Grace **8.00** Russ & Jono's Greatest Hits **10.00** Richard Skinner **2.00** Mark Forrest (including Cadbury's Crunchie Album Chart) **6.00** Lynn Parsons **10.00** Robin Banks *2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce*

World Service
(198kHz LW)
1.00am Newsdesk **1.30** Letter from America **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** For & Against **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Music Review **4.00** World News **4.15** Sports Roundup **4.30** Fourth Estate **4.45** Write On **4.55** Pop Short **5.00** Newsdesk **5.30** Short Story **5.45-6.00am** On the Move

Satellite

SKY ONE
7.00am Undun *(5841543).* **12.00** WWF *(77678).* **1.00** The Hit Mix *(53098). 2.00 Hercules (24185).* **3.00** Hawkeye *(83765).* **4.00** Kung Fu *(62272).* **5.00** Young Indiana Jones *(9524).* **6.00** WWF *(66562).* **7.00** Hercules *(34553).* **8.00** Unsolved Mysteries *(83253).* **9.00** Cops I *(68456).* **9.30** Cops II *(78307).* **10.00** Stand and Deliver *(21901).* **10.30** Revelations *(47949).* **11.00** The Movie Show *(63901).* **11.30** Forever Knight *(50369).* **12.30** Dream On *(90692). 1.00 Comedy Rules (96050).* **1.30** Rachel Gunn, RN *(10128).* **2.00-6.00am** Hit Mix Long Play *(8547296).*

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Rustlers' Rhapsody (1985) *(28746).* **8.00** Karate Killers (1967) *(48765).* **10.00** Cool Runnings (1993) *(99650036). 11.40* Dallas: The Early Years (1986) *(1778594 9).* **2.00** Beverly Hillbillies (1993) *(97456).* **4.00** Huck Finn (1993) *(4456).* **6.00** Cool Runnings (1993). *(59320).* **8.00** The Beverly Hillbillies (1993). *(12765).* **10.00** Girls in Prison (1994). *(5434036).* **11.25** Strike a Pose (1993). *(496494).* **1.00** The Spider and the Fly (1994) *(73857).* **2.30** Night Gallery (1969) *(252673).* **4.05-6.00am** The Adventures of Huck Finn (1993) *(927296).*

MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Walk the Proud Land (1956) *(26388).* **8.00** Spiderman (1977) *(46307).* **10.00** Will Any Gentleman? (1953) *(50901).* **12.00** Stargate (1994) *(29630). 2.00 Tender Mercies* (1982) *(95098).* **4.00** The Devil's Bed (1994) *(2098).* **6.00** Whose Child Is This? The War for Baby Jessica (1993). *(59302).* **8.00** Stargate (1994). *(10307).* **10.00** The Prophecy (1994). *(422659).* **11.40** Sleep with Me (1994). *(921524).* **1.10** APEX (1994) *(258747).* **2.55** Thief of Hearts (1984) *(986128).* **4.40-6.00am** Will Any Gentleman? (1953) *(4124147).*

SKY MOVIES GOLD
12.00noon Funny Girl (1968) *(484340).* **2.30** The Bravados (1958) *(90643253).* **4.15** Come Live with Me (1941) *(91460340).* **6.00** We're No Angels (1954). *(82562).* **8.00** The Maltese Falcon (1941). *(94307). 10.00* Forced Vengeance (1982). *(613949).* **11.40** Cat People (1982). *(975320).* **1.40** Dracula: Prince of Darkness (1965) *(859789).* **3.15-4.55am** The Bravados (1958) *(759296).*

UK GOLD
7.00am Give Us A Clue *(2238611).* **7.30** Going for Gold *(7224456).* **7.55** The Sullivans *(8094134 8). 10.00 Bergerac (2246630). 11.00* Lytton's Diary *(2266494).* **12.00** Neighbours *(3915307).* **2.30** The Naked and the Dead (1958) *(76054971).* **5.00** Robin's Nest *(19396781).* **5.35** Get Some In! *(2769302).* **6.10** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum *(3593036). 6.45* Sorry! *(1018123).* **7.20** Bread *(9777524).* **8.00** Colditz *(99265611).* **9.05** Tenko *(27674901).* **10.10** Bottom *(22921 23). 10.50* The Detectives *(5827272).* **11.30** Miami Vice *(7429272).* **12.30** Film: The Sure Thing (1985) *(3309166).* **2.10-7.00am** Shopping at Night *(6758499).*

SKY SPORTS
7.00am World Sports *(17307).* **7.30** WWF – Raw *(41982).* **8.30** Racing *(94982).* **9.00** Aussie Rules Football *(86949).* **11.00** Hold the Back Page *(46302).* **12.00** Sports Saturday *(68386746).* **4.15** Results *(9776833).* **5.30** Super League *(193479).* **8.00** Rugby *(56123). 10.00* Bushido *(35630).* **11.00** Finish Line *(16017).* **11.30** Mountain Biking *(65456).* **12.00** Super League *(46470).* **2.00-3.00am** Bushido *(40168).*

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Soccer *(9091543).* **10.30** Cricket *(6110291).* **6.30** World Sport *(8120185).* **7.00** Racing *(3334562).* **8.30** Futbol Mundial *(2975814).* **9.00** Aussie Rules Football *(2397384).* **11.00** Olympic Century *(2484543).* **12.00-1.00am** Game of Billions *(6079596).*

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00noon Motor Sport *(45669920).* **4.00** Rugby *(39133494).* **6.00** Swimming *(95161678).* **7.00** Soccer *(39121659).* **7.30** Senior Golf *(88043272).* **8.00** Asian Golf *(95319388).* **9.00** Golf USA *(95312475).* **11.00-12.00midnight** Surfing *(83714017).*

EUROSPORT
7.30am Jet Skiing *(81982).* **8.00** *Mountainbike (91543). 9.00* Eurofun *(64730).* **9.30** Tennis *(28369).* **11.00** Tractor Pulling *(90630).* **12.00** Offroad *(30272).* **1.00** Motorcycling *(49920).* **2.00** Formula 1 *(7949).* **2.30** Golf *(89814).* **4.30** Motorcycling *(66543).* **6.30** Truck Racing *(8307).* **7.00** Tennis *(38727). 8.00 Sumo (41291).* **10.00** Boxing *(37098).* **11.00** Motorcycling *(11123).* **12.30-2.30am** Tennis *(32963).*

LIVE TV
6.00am Revelations. **6.30** Looking for Love. **7.00** Spanish Archer. **7.30** Mind & Body. **8.00** The Why Files. **8.30** Video Box. **9.00** Fate & Fortune. **9.30** Fashion. **10.00** Revelations. **10.30** Looking for Love. *11.00 Mind & Body.* **11.30** Spanish Archer. **12.00** Canary Wharf **1.30** Fate & Fortune. **2.00** Fashion. **2.30** Mind & Body. **3.00** Chequered Flag. **3.30** Pin Money. **4.00** Eric's Monster Sport. **5.30** Looking for Love. **6.00** Fashion. **6.30** Eric's Monster Sports. *7.00 Pin Money.* **7.30** Revelations. **8.00** The Why Files. **8.30** Spanish Archer. **9.03** Fate & Fortune. **9.30** Looking for Love. **10.03** Fate & Fortune. **10.30** Stand Up. **11.03** Fate & Fortune. **11.30** Sex Show. **12.03** Revelations. **12.30** Kiss TV. **1.30-6.00am** Night-Time Programmes

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Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

COUZENS: On 10 August, to Catherine (née Gillham) and James, a son, William Charles, a brother for Alice and Edward.

DEATHS

McCULLOCH: Keith, on 13 August 1996, aged 41. Classics master at King's School, Worcester, nursed devotedly at home by his wife Maureen, with his children Harriet, Frances and Clemmie, who all loved him very much. Keith's mother and brothers, John and Stuart are grateful to Maureen, the children and the nursing team for the care shown to Keith and for the help, love and kindness of friends and neighbours. Funeral at the Priory, Malvern, 20 August, at 12.45pm. He was a remarkable man.

IN MEMORIAM

MERRITT: John Merritt, humane and brave and honest, died four years ago today.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2018, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. Chessells and Miss L. Tasker

The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Sir Tim and Lady Chessells, of Mark Cross, East Sussex, and Iona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Sidney H. Tasker, of Longton, Preston, Lancashire.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Ian Brindle, Senior Partner, Price Waterhouse, 53; Mr Jim Courier, tennis player, 26; Mr Robin Cousins, ice skater, 39; Mr Edward Cowie, lecturer and composer, 53; Mr Robert De Niro, actor, 53; Mr David Donne, former chairman, Argos plc, 71; Sir Leonard Figg, former diplomat, 73; Mr James Gulliver, chairman, James Gulliver Associates, 66; Mr Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate, 66; Mr John Humphrys, broadcaster, 53; Miss Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 62; Mr Ian McAllister, chairman and managing director, Ford Motor Company, 53; Mr Seamus Mallon MP, 60; Mr George Melly, jazz singer, 70; Mr Alan Minter, middleweight boxer, 45; Sir Alan Munro, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 61; Sir Vidia Naipaul, novelist, 64; Mr David Nicholson MP, 52; Miss Maureen O'Hara, actress, 75; Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing, former chairman, Rank Xerox, 72; Dr Ewan Page, former Vice-Chancellor, Reading University, 68; Mr Nelson Piquet, racing driver, 44; M Jean-Bernard Pommier, pianist, 52; Mr Barry Sheerman MP, 56; Mr Richard Stott, editor, *Today*, 53; Mr Anthony Valentine, actor, 57; Mr Guillermo Vilas, tennis player, 44; Mrs Susan Williams, former Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, 81; Professor Michael Wise, geographer, 78; Sir Tony Wrigley, Master, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 65.

TOMORROW: Professor Roy Acheson, epidemiologist, 75; Mr Brian Aldiss, science fiction writer, 71; Sir Bryan Askew, former chairman, Yorks Regional Health Authority, 66; Dame Josephine Barnes, gynaecologist, 84; Dr Ray Bettley, dermatologist, 87; Mr James Birrell, former chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 63; M Marcel Carné, film director, 87; Mr Godfrey Evans, cricketer, 76; Mr Robert Horton, chairman, Railtrack, 57; Dame Moura Lympany, concert pianist, 80; Sir John Mason, Chancellor, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umist), 73; Mr Hugh Peppiatt, chairman, Moorfields Eye Hospital, 66; Sir David Pitblado, former Comptroller and Auditor-General, 84; Mr Roman Polanski, film director, 63; Sir Humphrey Potts, High Court judge, 65; Mr Robert Redford, actor, 59; M Alain Robbe-Grillet, novelist and film director, 74; Mr Willie Rushton, broadcaster, 59; Mr Patrick Shovelton, vice-chairman, Maersk Co, 77; Mr Patrick Swayze, actor, 42; General Bramwell H. Tilsley, former General of the Salvation Army, 65; Mr Casper Weinberger, former US Secretary of Defense, 79; Mr Charles Wilson, Chairman, Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Ltd, 61; Miss Shelley Winters, actress, 74.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Pierre de Fermat, *mathematician*, 1601; John III, King of Poland, 1629; Nicola Antonio Porpora, composer, 1686; Thomas Stothard, illustrator, 1755; William Carey, orientalist and missionary, 1761; Davy Crockett, frontiersman, 1786; Richard Lalor Sheil, playwright and politician, 1791; Pierre-Léonard Léopold Benoît, composer, 1834; Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, diplomat, poet and traveller, 1840; Sir Malcolm Morris, dermatologist, 1849; Franz Pönitz, harpist and composer, 1850; Oliver St John Gogarty, writer, 1878; Mae West, actress, 1892. Deaths: Robert Blake, admiral, 1657; Frederick II (the Great) king of Prussia, 1786; Honoré de Balzac, novelist, 1850; José Francisco de San Martín, Argentinian revolutionary, 1850; Fernand Leger, Cubist painter, 1955; Sir John Hubert Marshall, archaeologist, 1958; Florent Schmitt, composer, 1958; Leonard Alfred George Strong, novelist, 1958; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, architect, 1969; Conrad Potter Aiken, novelist and poet, 1973; Ira Gershwin (Israel Gershvin), lyricist, 1983; Walter Richard Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's former deputy, 1987. On this day: the English defeated the Scots and French at the Battle of Verneuil, 1424; Cromwell's army was victorious at the Battle of Preston, 1648; Robert Fulton began operating his *Clermont* steamboat from New York to Albany, 1807; the registration of births, deaths and marriages was introduced in Britain under the Registration Act, 1836; on the point of starvation, the Sioux Indian nation rebelled in Minnesota, killing over 800 soldiers and settlers, 1862; Wagner's opera *Götterdämmerung* was first performed, Bayreuth, 1876; the French Panama Canal Company was established, 1879; gold was discovered in the Klondyke, Canada, 1896; a general railway strike started in Britain, 1911; the first London performance of the musical play *Waltzes from Vienna* was staged, 1931; Sicily was completely liberated by the Allies, 1943; the RAF raided the German rocket base at Peenemunde, Rostock, 1943; Indonesia was proclaimed an independent republic, 1945; building of the Wall between East and West Berlin began, 1961; in the Philippines, earthquakes and tidal waves resulted in the deaths of more than 6,000 people, 1976. Today is the Feast Day of St Clare of Montefalco, St Eusebius, pope, St Hyacinth, St Joan Delanoue, St Liberatus of Capua, St Mamas and St Rock or Roch.

TOMORROW: Births: Virginia Dare, first child of English parents to be born in America, 1587; Antonio Salieri, composer, 1750; Meriwether Lewis, explorer, 1774; Pieter Lichtenthal, writer on music and composer, 1780; John Russell, first Earl Russell, statesman, 1792; Franz Josef I, Emperor of Austria-Hungary, 1830; Marshall Field, founder of Marshall Field's department store, 1834; Benjamin-Louis Paul Godard, composer, 1849; Otto Harbach, (Otto Abels Hauerbach), librettist and lyricist, 1873. Deaths: Genghis Khan, 1227; Guido Reni, painter, 1642; William Boyd, fourth Earl Kilmarnock, executed 1746; Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor, 1765; James Beattie, poet, 1803; André-Jacques Garnerin, balloonist, 1823; Sir William Fairbairn, engineer and inventor, 1874; George J.S. Miller, sculptor, 1876; Anita Loos, screenwriter, novelist and playwright, 1981; Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, architectural historian, 1983. On this day: the Russians were defeated by Napoleon at Smolensk, 1812; US forces captured Santa Fé, 1846; the Treaty of Alliance forming the North German Confederation was signed, 1866; the Prussians were victorious over the French at the Battle of Gravelotte, 1870; the National Fire Service in Britain was established, 1941; the Tay Road Bridge was opened, 1966; the liner Queen Mary was sold to the town of Long Beach, California, 1967; in the Soviet Union, President Gorbachev, while on holiday in the Crimea, was seized and held prisoner, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Agapitus, St Alipius, St Beatrice or Brites da Silva, Saints Florus and Laurus and St Helena.

Lectures

TODAY

National Gallery: Julie Barlow, "August People (iii): Bellini, *The Doge Leonardo Loredan*", 12pm.
Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Touches of Magic in Colour", 1pm.
British Museum: Barbara Brend, "Islamic Architecture of Cairo", 1.15pm.
National Portrait Gallery (guided tour): "The Performing Arts: portraits of actors and musicians", 2.30pm.

TOMORROW

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Originality, Freely Adopted", 2.30pm.

Steadfast obedience, even unto death

faith & reason

Dr Margaret Atkins considers how following Christ has led to death for Christians from St Stephen, the first martyr, to the Rev Christopher Gray, Vicar of St Margaret's, Anfield, in Liverpool this week.

The Western Church has few modern martyrs; but it is time to remember those that she has. Last Wednesday was the anniversary of St Maximilian Kolbe, who died in 1941. A Polish friar who had refused to temper his criticism of the Nazis, he was sent to Auschwitz. One day, a group of men were arbitrarily selected and condemned to mass execution. One, a family man, broke down under the strain; Kolbe simply volunteered to take his place.

With a tragic appropriateness, Wednesday's newspapers told us of the murder of a priest in Liverpool. Christopher Gray was a gifted young man, who had accepted an uncomfortable vocation; and had refused to shelter himself from its risks. He was killed by a man he had been helping.

For the early Church, martyrdom was the archetypal Christian calling. Under the Roman empire Christians were prepared to face the dramatic choice: worship the emperor or die! What more striking proof of the Christian's love of God, of the power of Christ, in the believer, than the courage to stand firm? There seemed little difference between a true Christian and a martyr.

That is not surprising: for Christians are saints in so far as their lives are conformed to the life of Christ. And the shape of Christ's life was stark: "he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, death on a cross" (Philippians 2-8). When the empire converted and Christianity became safe, the feeling remained that martyrs were the highest form of witnesses. As the monastic movement grew, for example, ascetics interpreted their own self-denial as a form of bloodless martyrdom. Of course, there are countless types of sanctity; for Christ's life can be reflected in innumerable ways. But steadfast obedience, supremely symbolised by the martyr, underlies them all.

Less than half a century separates Maximilian Kolbe from Christopher Gray. In a striking sense, their deaths were parallel: both a consequence of their faithful and fearless obedience to the gospel. In another sense, a gulf separates them. Kolbe was a martyr in the tradition that stretches back to St Stephen. The heroes of the early church died because they refused to deny their faith. The hostility they faced was hostility to Christianity itself. Kolbe was imprisoned because he refused to keep his faith silent. His Christianity was hated because it would not compromise with a godless state.

The forces that turned themselves against Christopher Gray, as before against Philip Lawrence, were less articulate. They were not attacking Christianity as such. They were not attacking a movement, or an ideal. The violence that lies so near the surface of our society frightens us by its very mindlessness and unpredictability. We are unlikely to die because we are Christians. But we may die because we happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Or perhaps the right place. For Philip Lawrence and Christopher Gray both chose to be where they were most needed. The typical saint of our generation is not Maximilian Kolbe, but Mother Teresa: less the brave prophet than the unwearying servant of the poor. Lawrence and Gray were cast in her mould, Christians who obeyed the call to serve in unprivileged places. Gray's talents would quickly have opened the door of a comfortable college common room. He lived instead in Anfield, and accepted with open eyes the physical threat that was inseparable from his work.

Gray was in the wrong place at the wrong time simply because he obeyed his Christian calling without compromise. Mindless violence strikes the target that is nearest; and therefore the most vulnerable are those who serve the neediest. But the quiet everyday struggles of teachers and of clergy are noticed only when tragedy strikes. I am reminded of another priest I know, a patient and dedicated man, who had served a city parish for a decade, enduring a daily grind of threats and insults from aggressive beggars, repeatedly cleaning up his vandalised or desecrated church. There must be many another like him.

Christian love is shaped by obedience, and fortified by courage. These are unfashionable virtues, proclaimed neither by tired Conservative consumerism, nor by ambitious New Labour. Their implications are too radical, too disturbing, to be embraced by the establishment. They find their form, their justification, their strength, and their reward, only in Christ.

Real concrete sanctity is shocking. For most of us, heroic obedience will remain an ideal to challenge us rather than an example for us follow. But in another sense men and women like Christopher Gray can comfort us. For they point to the places that seem most desolate, most dangerous, most God-forsaken; and they show us that Christ himself is there.

Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Jonathan Adams, Team Vicar, Willington Team Ministry, in charge of St Paul: to be Priest-in-charge, St Silas, Byker (Newcastle).
The Rev George Ansah, Assistant Curate, St Mary Magdalene, Peckham: to be Vicar, Emmanuel, West Dulwich (Southwark).
The Rev Roy Findlayson, Vicar, St Francis, High Heaton: to be also Acting Rural Dean of Newcastle East (Newcastle).
The Rev Martin Goodhad, Vicar, St Philip, Cheam Common and Rural Dean of Sutton (Southwark): to be also an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral.
The Rev David Green, Priest-in-charge, Woodchester and Brimscombe: to be Priest-in-charge, Cobley and Cosley, Colesbourne, Elkstone, and Diocesan Rural Adviser (Gloucester).
The Rev Anthony Hodgson, Curate, St George, Chorley: to be Curate, St Cuthbert, Lytham (Blackburn).
The Rev David Lingwood, Team Rector, Blakenall Heath Team Ministry: to be Vicar, Rushall (Lichfield).
The Rev Eric Littler, Rector, East and West Tilbury and Linford: to be also Rural Dean of Thurrock (Chelmsford).
Canon John Moore, General Director, Church Pastoral Aid Society: to be International Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Intercontinental Church Society.
The Rev Ndusa Mpunzi, Priest-in-charge, Walsall St Mary: to be Resident Minister, Tettenhall Regis Team Ministry (Lichfield).
The Rev Michael Nelson, Rector, Hexham: to be also Acting Rural Dean of Hexham (Newcastle).
The Rev Terence Nottage, Diocesan Director of Ordinands designate (Exeter): to be also a Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral.
Canon Trevor Park, Vicar, Natland (Carlisle): to be Chaplain of St Edmund's, Oslo, Norway (Europe).
The Rev Peter Ramsden, Rector, Goroka (Papua New Guinea): to be Vicar, St Bartholomew, Longbenton (Newcastle).
The Rev Roxanne Roberts, Assistant Curate, St Philip and St James, Leckhampton: to be Rector, Ashchurch (Gloucester).
The Rev John Widdas, Vicar, Tamworth: to be Vicar, Walsall Wood (Lichfield).
The Rev Stuart Worth, Rector, Uplyme with Axmouth (Exeter): to be also a Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral.
The Rev Roy Wyatt, Rector, Welford with Weston and Clifford Chambers: to be also Rural Dean of Campden (Gloucester).

RESIGNATIONS and RETIREMENTS

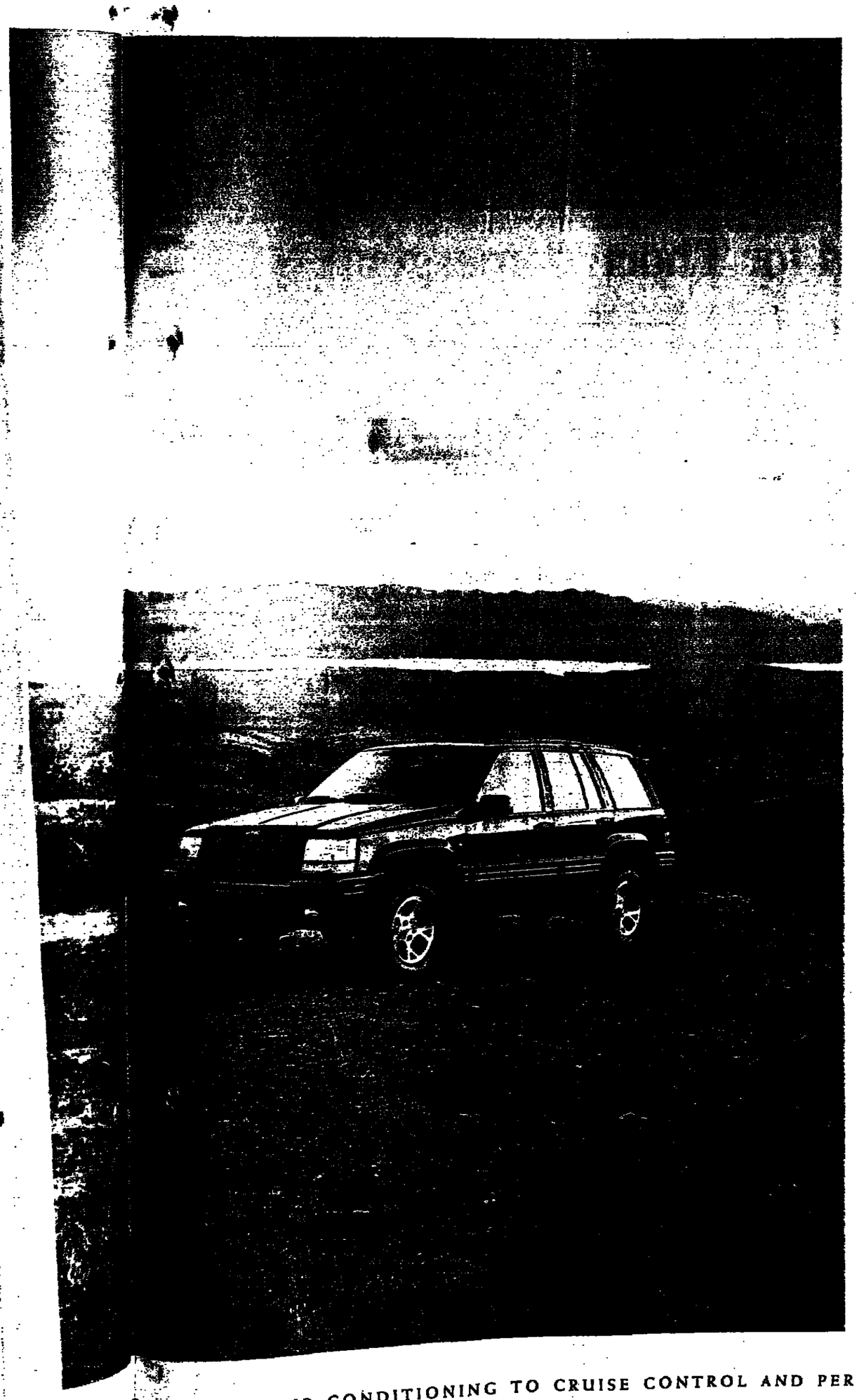
The Rev Stanley Ablewhite, Priest-in-charge, Swindon with Himley (Lichfield): to retire 31 August.
The Rev Neville Biden, Curate, St John, Coulsdon (Southwark): to retire 11 November.
The Rev Keith Finnimore, Rector, Hawstead (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire 31 August.
The Rev Jack Hay, Vicar, Woodhorn with Newbiggin (Newcastle): to retire 5 October.
The Rev Jane Kenchington, Assistant Curate, Winchcombe, Gretton, Sudeley Manor and Stanley Pontlarge (Gloucester): resigned 30 June.
The Rev June Knight, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Philip and St James, Leckhampton (Gloucester): retired 31 July.
The Rev Roy Whiteley, Vicar, Wetley Rocks (Lichfield): to retire 1 November.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence RN, today disembark from HMY *Britannia* at Aberdeen; and arrive at the Main Gate, Balmoral Castle, where the Queen presents the new Ballater Colour to the Queen's Guard.

Changing of the Guard

TODAY: The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. TOMORROW: The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.



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Money pages in the Weekend section

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Mercury plans big expansion to boost sales

'High-risk strategy' to connect businesses and small subscribers could lift spending to £500m

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Mercury Communications, the UK's second-largest telephones operator, is planning a large expansion of its network into local areas, installing direct connections to small businesses and even to some residential customers for the first time.

Senior executives are pressing Mercury's parent, Cable & Wireless, to come up with funding for the high-risk plan, which could see annual investment soar by two-thirds, to around £500m.

The expansion strategy follows a confidential review of prospects at Mercury, which has been squeezed by increasingly tough competition for larger business customers.

Managers see an assault on the so-called "local loop" for small business and high-spending residential customers as their best hope to boost sales, which has slowed considerably in recent years. Last year Mercury's turnover rose by just 3 per cent, to £1.7bn.

Currently, only Mercury's largest spending customers, those with phone bills running into tens of thousands of pounds, have direct connections to the company's national fibre optic network, the result of a £3.5bn investment since the mid-Eighties.

The rest have indirect connections mainly using BT's local infrastructure and the "Mercury button" built into the phone. If Mercury installed its own direct connections, customer would receive one bill instead of two.

There are three options under consideration, the most promising of which revolves around wireless telephony, where the phone is connected to a base station using a radio signal from an aerial.

Mercury has been awarded a licence to operate radio connections, though the terms and conditions have yet to be finalised with the Government.

A trial of 22 small businesses in Reading was completed last month. Mercury's chief executive, Peter Howell-Davies, described the experiment as "successful". He explained: "Mercury has the second-largest local loop in Britain, primarily aimed at medium to large customers. As technology changes, so does the capability to service different segments of the market."

Mercury's second option is to extend its fibre optic links under the ground to much smaller-spending businesses. Another trial took place in Bristol last spring, though in marketing terms it is thought to have been less successful.

The most ambitious proposition remains a deal with the cable companies to use the infrastructure built up since the deregulation of the UK phone market five years ago. This would give Mercury direct access to homes for the first time, gaining a firmer foothold in the highly profitable top end of the residential market.

Dick Brown: Conducting a strategic review

The problem for Mercury is that its preferred partner, the third-largest UK cable firm, Bell Cablemedia, appears on the verge of an alliance with the German telephones giant Deutsche Telekom. Mercury has a 13 per cent stake in Bell Cablemedia and two seats on its board and the negotiations with Deutsche Telekom are the source of growing concern to insiders.

Results of the review are being put to Cable & Wireless's new chief executive, Dick Brown, who joined the company in July after the enforced departure of James Ross and Lord Young and the failure to agree a merger with BT. Mr Brown is conducting a strategic review, but is understood to have reaffirmed that Mercury is "not for sale".

Mr Brown's warmer attitude to Mercury's prospects has pleased managers, who watched with growing frustration as the parent group appeared to vacillate over its long-term future. Mr Howell Davies said: "Dick came over to our offices on his first day in the job and has spent a lot of time with us since. He's made it very clear that he sees Mercury as a key part of Cable & Wireless's business and the cornerstone of his European strategy."

The expansion would end a long period of consolidation at Mercury, which two years ago announced 2,500 job cuts and an exit from the phone market. The restructuring, which involved an end to high-profile residential marketing campaigns, cost £122m, but reduced Mercury's cost base by over £60m.

His master's voice: Sir Colin Southgate tells shareholders the demerger will release two businesses for new growth

Vote solid for Thorn demerger

NIGEL COPE

Shareholders in Thorn-EMI yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of the demerger of the company into two separate businesses – Thorn rentals and the EMI music division.

The vote was carried by a show of hands at a well-attended extraordinary general meeting in London. Some 90 per cent of proxies also voted in favour.

Shares in the two businesses will start trading on Monday. Shares in the larger EMI group, which will include the HMV records chain, are expected to start trading at around £14. The smaller Thorn division, which includes the Radio Rentals and Crazy George's businesses, is expected to see its shares open at around 410p.

As a result of the demerger, Thorn EMI will disappear from the FTSE-100 list of leading shares, but both of the demerged businesses will join the top tier. Cookson, the engineering and ceramics group, will be removed to make way.

On its last day of trading Thorn-EMI shares rose strongly, finishing the day 44p higher at £18.33.

Addressing shareholders at the meeting, Thorn-EMI chairman Sir Colin Southgate said he expected shares in EMI group would be "very highly rated" when they start trading. "If not, I'll be very disappointed."

Some shareholders questioned the wisdom of the demerger, but Sir Colin said it would unlock shareholder value. He said both businesses would grow faster outside of the group. "Thorn will come out from under the umbrellas of EMI, which is a glamourous business. It will develop its own strategy and strengths and drive forward faster."

Sir Colin also told the meeting that adviser fees for the demerger had totalled £70m – a relatively small sum for a company valued at £8bn, he said.

Some analysts regard the EMI business as a takeover target at a possible figure of £20 per share. The Thorn rental business is, however, earmarked for more pedestrian growth.

Comment, p17

Footsie hits new highs as debt falls

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Much better-than-expected public sector borrowing figures yesterday revived hopes that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will cut taxes in his November Budget.

Analysts had been looking for a neutral PSBR outcome in July. The figures pushed gilts higher and the improved sentiment gave a further push to equities, with the FT-SE index of 100 leading companies closing at a record high of 3872.9, up 35.5 points on the day.

Dealers ascribed the stock market's strength as much to futures trading, a strong opening on Wall Street and interest rate hopes, but leading investment houses such as Robert Fleming, Société Générale Strauss Turnbull and Charterhouse Tilney are predicting the Footsie will break the 4,000 barrier by the end of the month.

Central government, local authorities and public corporations repaid £1.66bn of borrowings in July, the first time the national debt has fallen since January.

Markets have been fretting over the Government's apparent inability to control public borrowing, but some economists said the good July figures put the Treasury's summer forecast of £26.9bn for the year back on target.

The July outcome was accompanied by news that June's borrowing requirement has been revised downward by around £200m to £3.48bn, bringing the cumulative total for the year to date to £8.8bn, down from £12.1bn for the same period of 1995/96.

The figures were swollen by the proceeds of the first instalment of the British Energy privatisation, around £600m, and the £200m repayment of a Railtrack debenture. But even stripping those out, tax receipts were strong last month, with VAT returns up 29 per cent.

This confirmed other signs that high street sales are reviving. Both the corporate sectors and private individuals are doing well, judging by the 33 per cent rise in corporation tax and 14 per cent rise in income tax receipts last month.

Adam Cole, economist with brokers HSBC James Capel, said the figures could give the Chancellor scope for perhaps a 1p cut in basic rate taxes in November. "The trend that is emerging now puts [the Treasury] almost bang on target!... Given the receipts coming through in the second half, we could see the final figures coming in as an undershoot."

Cynics might suggest the Treasury had been deliberately cautious in its forecasts to provide a background to justify tax cuts. "I think, if anything, they have skewed the risks in that direction. In that connection, today's figures put tax cuts back on the agenda," Mr Cole said.

However, it was also pointed out that the Government is still over-spending against its official targets.

Hanson poison pill stirs bile of investors

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Institutional investors yesterday expressed concern over Hanson's plan to put in place a "poison pill" to prevent a takeover of Millennium, the chemicals arm due to be demerged from the conglomerate in October. Hanson defended the move, claiming it was standard practice in the US and had been used successfully at the time of last year's US Industries spin-off.

One leading institution said: "We don't like it at all. Public companies shouldn't have poison pill arrangements. We plan to take it up with the company."

Others expressed surprise that Hanson, whose very existence had been predicated on the art of the hostile takeover, should attempt to put in place an artificial bid-blocking mechanism.

Christopher Collins, vice-chairman of Hanson, described the arrangement, which prevents a potential predator from taking a stake of more than 15 per cent without entering into negotiations with the company, as "a fairly standard US device". He cited statistical evidence showing that companies using the poison pill had acted in the interests of shareholders, boosting the price at which takeover targets were eventually taken out.

He denied that the use of the device implied that Hanson expected a takeover bid for Millennium. But he said that there would inevitably be a transition period during which some UK investors withdrew from the New York quoted company which might lead to the sort of share price weakness that might attract a bidder.

In the 15 months since US Industries, a collection of non-core American businesses, was spun off from Hanson, the proportion of British shareholders has fallen to only 10 per cent. A similar exodus is expected at Millennium.

According to a J P Morgan study, the median takeover premium of companies employing the block between 1988 and 1995 was 51.4 per cent. That compared with a premium of 35.5 per cent for companies without the protection.

Hanson's shares, down from 211.5p at the time of the demerger announcement in January, closed 3.5p lower at 163p.

Comment, page 17

Wickes suspension to go on into September

NIGEL COPE

Wickes, the DIY retailer whose shares were suspended after a £30m profits-overstatement, will not complete its preliminary investigations into the affair until the end of September. The lengthy inquiry means the shares will not start trading again until at least three months after details of the accounting errors first became known.

The details of the investigation were contained in a letter sent to shareholders yesterday from Wickes chairman Michael von Brentano. In the company's first communication with investors since news of the problems became public, Wickes also said it had appointed a new finance director and had begun a search for a new chief executive and non-executive directors.

Mr von Brentano said discussions were continuing with Wickes' suppliers and that until those talks have been completed it would not be possible to finalise the company's revised profit figures for 1995. Only then could the shares start trading again.

The company's relationships with its suppliers are the focus of the investigation. The letter states: "As the accounting problems are linked with supplier contributions such as volume rebates, a review of underlying arrangements with a large number of suppliers is part of the brief given to our advisers. At the same time we need to address our future relationships with our suppliers in a constructive fashion."

Wickes has written to 200 suppliers asking for details on rebate payments and other buying arrangements.

Adopting an apologetic tone, Mr von Brentano's letter concluded: "Your board deeply regrets what has taken place. We are determined to identify those responsible and to take appropriate action at all levels."

Henry Sweetbaum resigned as executive chairman in June the day after the accounting scam emerged. Two other Wickes' directors, Les Rosenthal and Chris Miles, have been suspended pending the completion of the investigation by Price Waterhouse.

One Wickes insider said there was no evidence so far to implicate board members. But the source was more circumspect about whether there would be legal proceedings against any other employees. "That will come out as part of the preliminary investigation," he said.

The new Wickes finance director is Bill Hoskins, former finance director at speciality chemicals company Laporte. He will replace Stuart Stradling, who has already stated his intention to stand down. He will relinquish the finance director's post but remain on the board as an executive director until the investigation is completed.

Henry Sweetbaum: Stepped down in June

Foul-mouthed trader applauded on to the floor

NIC CICUTTI

Colin "Ned" Kelly, the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange trader fined £500 for abusing a member of staff, was cheered by colleagues on the trading floor after details of his offence were publicised.

Fellow-traders in the FT-SE 100 pit, where Mr Kelly works, were among a group who applauded him when he appeared for work on the day *The Independent* ran the story about him.

It is understood that photocopies of the story, which described how Mr Kelly swore and shouted at a female Liffe pit "observer" in June, were widely distributed among traders.

It was also confirmed yesterday that Mr Kelly, who reputedly earns £250,000 working for Hills Independent Trading (HIT), a top Liffe member, was fined £150 for another incident 18 months ago, in which he was said to have made baboon-like gestures and noises at a black trader.

Steve Hills, founder and joint managing director at HIT, said Mr Kelly had been fined for the offence at the end of 1994. The general category under which the fine was levied by Liffe was "language and behaviour likely to cause offence".

Mr Hills added of the applause for Mr Kelly: "Everyone is famous for 15 minutes, aren't they?" He added that his employee regretted both the offences which led to action being taken against him. Mr Kelly himself declined to comment.

Meanwhile, another Liffe trader is being sued by a colleague over an attack at a Christmas dinner, in which he smashed a bottle over the other trader's head.

The incident took place at a meal for between 15 and 20 Liffe traders at the Pont de la Tour, one of London's top restaurants. The meal broke up in disarray after Simon Calvert, attacked Ashley Moore.

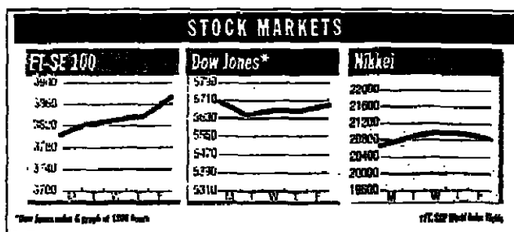
Diners at the Pont de la Tour, which is owned by Sir Terence Conran, the design guru, watched in amazement as Mr Calvert, who is said to earn millions from his trades in the Exchange's *bund* (German bond) pit, was persuaded by another trader to stay in the restaurant after the incident.

Four of Mr Moore's teeth were broken in the attack and he suffered complete loss of feeling to the side of his face for two weeks. He was off work for several months after the attack, in December 1994.

Mr Moore received 25 stitches for injuries to his head. His assailant was suspended from trading by Liffe until he pleaded guilty to assault before London magistrates last summer and was fined £1,000. Mr Moore said that he was called to see Liffe officials last year and told his attacker would be returning to the pit. "I was told he was coming back and they hoped I will be prepared to turn the other cheek," Mr Moore said. "He is in there every day about 12 feet away and always smiles at me."

He is now suing Mr Calvert for loss of earnings.

STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	3872.90	+35.50	+0.9	3872.90	3632.30	4.04
FTSE 250	4366.40	+10.40	+0.2	4568.60	4015.30	3.45
FTSE 350	1935.70	+14.90	+0.8	1945.40	1816.60	3.91
FT Small Cap	2136.18	+5.49	+0.3	2244.36	1954.06	3.11
FT All Share	1911.85	+14.04	+0.7	1924.17	1791.95	3.85
New York *	5687.97	+22.19	+0.4	5778.00	5032.94	2.21
Tokyo	20834.00	-134.25	-0.6	22666.80	19734.70	0.76†
Hong Kong	11175.98	+17.59	+0.2	11594.99	10204.87	3.45†
Frankfurt	2549.36	+2.03	+0.1	2583.49	2253.36	1.80†

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES

Money Market Rates

Index	1 Month	1 Year
UK	5.75	6.13
US	5.28	5.75
Japan	0.38	0.78
Germany	3.19	3.28

Bond Yields *

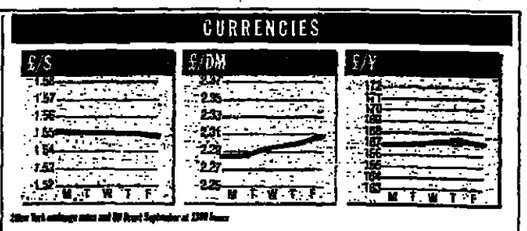
Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago
7.76	8.14	7.88	8.20
6.53	6.57	6.78	6.91
3.15	3.28	-	-
6.24	6.79	6.96	-

*Benchmark indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change%	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Albert Fisher	46	2	4.5	M.I.Laboratories	335	17	4.8
BTG	1745	70	4.2	Britannic Assur	710	24	3.3
Securicor	279	11	4.1	Chiroscience	397	11	2.7

CURRENCIES



Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
$ (London)	1.5483	-0.23c	1.5450
$ (N York)‡	1.5470	-0.40c	1.5445
DM (London)	2.3124	+0.88pf	2.2714
¥ (London)	167.046	-Y0.303	149.703
£ Index	85.0	+0.2	84.3

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0.6459	+0.10	0.6472
£ (N York)‡	0.6464	+0.17	0.6475
DM (London)	1.4935	+0.79pf	1.4702
¥ (London)	107.890	-Y0.035	96.8950
$ Index	96.3	+0.1	94.8

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago
Oil Brent $	20.28	-0.31	16.07
Gold $	386.20	-0.10	384.60
Gold £	249.43	+0.30	248.91

	Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Figs
RPI	152.4	+2.2pc	149.8	12 Sep
GDP	107.9	+0.4pc	126.9	22 Aug
Base Rates	—	5.75pc	5.75	—

Computer blamed for Somerfield mix-up

Yet another hitch in the troubled flotation of the Somerfield supermarkets group emerged yesterday when Lloyds Bank Registrars admitted that a computer error had deprived private investors of the opportunity to buy the company's shares, writes Nigel Cope.

Lloyds blamed the mistake on the mayhem that followed Kleinwort Benson's last-minute decision to cut the price of the offer for a second time to ensure the float did not fail.

Thousands of private investors were posted application forms asking them to re-confirm their interest in buying the shares at the lower price and had just six days to reply. However, it is understood that hundreds of shareholders missed out. Some were away on holiday while others claim they never received the letters.

The mix-up affected around 100 investors at share shop Hargreaves Landsdown Asset Management while another share shop, Dealwise, also blamed Lloyds.

Lloyds said it would compensate investors who were affected, at a cost of around £10,000.

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Internet waits in wings for banking dinosaurs

JEREMY WARNER

'By the turn of the century, some 15.7 per cent of households in the US will take Internet banking. Furthermore, because these people will be drawn mainly from the upper income brackets, they will represent some 30 per cent of retail banking profitability'

Whether you are plugged into it or not, most of us have in some way or other already been touched by the Internet. Not so traditional high street banking, whose forays into the Net have so far been reluctant and half-hearted. If the findings of a report published this week by the management consultants Booz-Allen & Hamilton are to be believed, it is not hard to see why. According to Booz-Allen's vice-president of information technology, John Boochever, the Internet poses a very serious threat both to the customer base of the traditional banking oligopoly and to its profits. I would go further. The Internet promises a revolution in retail banking of monumental proportions, one in which high street banks as we know and hate them may largely disappear.

On Monday, Barclays is planning to launch what it claims to be the most advanced banking facility so far to be offered in Britain across the Internet. Using your Barclaycard, you will for the first time be able to pay utility bills through the Net. It can readily be seen that this falls a long way short of full Internet banking. Indeed, it is scarcely more than a gimmick, which only fanatics and anoraks might want to use.

Most European banks worth the name are represented on the Web already, but their presence rarely goes beyond what Booz-Allen calls "entry level", similar to a glossy brochure telling you what the bank can offer. With full Internet banking it is possible to envisage a world in which it would not only be possible to access your statement, mail your cash, pay your bills and transact all the usual business associated with a bank, but one in which it might also be possible to have your custom chase the best deposit rates and lowest overdraft rates automatically.

Banking services would be unbundled enabling unfettered promiscuity of custom. Banks would lose their proprietary grip on their customer base, bringing about a reversal of the present position where customers are made to feel grateful to their bank for providing a service. Instead, the customer's financial profile would become the property of middle men and software providers, with the result that banks would genuinely have to compete for your business. In short, retail banking would become much more like wholesale banking.

If all this sounds like futuristic fantasy, don't be misled; it is not. The technology already exists. Booz-Allen estimates that by the turn of the century, some 15.7 per cent of households in the US will take Internet banking. Furthermore, because these people will be drawn mainly from the upper-income brackets, they will account for some 30 per cent of retail banking profitability.

Computer ownership in Britain is not yet as highly developed as in the US and, according to Barclays, its customers in any case demand a plurality of different kinds of banking. They still want branch banking alongside all the new services on offer, Barclays insists. Well, perhaps, but once everyone learns how cheap Internet banking is, I'm not so sure. Through the branch network, the average payment transaction costs more than 60p. With telephone banking it is 35p. The cost through committed computer banking is around 17p. With Internet banking it is even better – just 8p.

That gives the Internet bank a very considerable competitive advantage. The cost-income ratio of the best of the high-street banks is something like 50 per cent. With Internet banks, it can be as low as 15 per cent. No contest. So why is this service not already on offer in the UK. Er ... technology, mutter the big clearers. We can't get access to the encryption technology which allows secure Internet banking. Undoubtedly this is part of the explanation, but there is another rather more obvious one. The fact is that for existing retail banks with their extensive branch networks, Internet banking offers no cost advantages. Rather, a bit like telephone banking, it merely adds to costs until the service reaches sufficient mass to allow other cost centres to be closed.

Herein lies part of the danger to the established banks. Unencumbered by the high-cost branch network and infrastructure of the traditional banks, the pure Internet bank can undercut with abandon and still make good profits. The high-street banks are hard enough to distinguish one from another already; most customers cite convenience as the chief factor for choosing one bank over another. Once the advantages of geographical proximity go, all brand loyalty and value falls away. The traditional banks will find it increasingly hard to hold on to their market positions.

All this is for the future, but it is not so far away as to be only a distant concern. For the time being the old dinosaurs of banking are making record, many would say excessive, profits. A new, smaller, faster moving reptile is waiting in the wings. Twenty years from now, they may have inherited the earth.

A cautionary tale of two demergers

There could scarcely be a greater contrast than the two big demergers working their way through the City at the moment. Thorn EMI's share price has never looked back since the demerger of the EMI music business from the Thorn TV rental side was first mooted a couple of years back. For Hanson, the story has been the reverse. Its share price has fallen steadily against the market since proposals to split the once acquisitive conglomerate into four were announced seven months ago.

This is partly because the market reckons the demerger of EMI will ripen it for takeover by the likes of Disney or Bertelsmann. Not so any of the Hanson quadruplets. It hardly seems necessary for Lord Hanson to bring ridicule on himself by inserting a poison pill into the Millennium chemicals business that forms one of the four. Nobody would want to bid for these under-invested, cash-squeezed companies, anyway. But chiefly the contrast between the two stems from EMI being a class act in a very high growth business.

The same cannot be said of any of the Hanson four. Indeed it is much worse than that. Hanson may never have been what it seemed. Its success may always have been as much a result of acquisition accounting and tax avoidance as anything else. Now that it is breaking itself up into four distinct companies, each individually making some kind of sense, comes the final reckoning. And it is not pleasant. It may be that the four collectively cannot afford the dividend the whole has been blithely paying out to shareholders all these years. Even the greatest illusionists cannot keep it up for ever.

Airtours buys third liner to corner budget cruise market

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Airtours has paid £26m for a third cruise ship to add to the pair of liners it currently sails out of Palma in Majorca.

The *MS Song of Norway*, which has just over one thousand berths, is the sister ship of the *Carousel*, which Airtours acquired, also from Royal Caribbean Cruises, in October 1994.

Airtours entered the cruise business only two years ago, attempting to create a new niche market for seaborne packages priced around £500.

Until then, cruises had been pitched at a wealthier audience and priced accordingly. The cheapest cruises then started at about £1,400 a head.

Harry Coe, Airtours' finance director, said Airtours was able to offer cheap packages because its existing tour infrastructure enabled it to sell cruises at little extra cost.

The company already operates dozens of charter flights to Palma every weekend throughout the summer and, with a chain of 700 travel agents, it can run the cruise operation with a dedicated staff of only 10.

Mr Coe said: "We've not made any secret of the fact that our cruise operation has been an outstanding success since we launched it two years ago. We are carrying 100,000 people a year. It will probably rise to 150,000."

Airtours' initial plan is to operate the *Song of Norway* with its two other ships in the Mediterranean after the ship completes its final winter cruises for Royal Caribbean, which will lease it from Airtours until next March.

It is expected, however, that the ship will join the *Carousel* on winter tours to the Caribbean, which Airtours sells mainly to the Canadian market it has acquired through the purchase of two separate tour operators. The company said it had already sold 90 per cent of its cruise capacity for the 1996/97 winter season.

Mr Coe estimated Airtours had won a quarter of the total cruise market. He also believed the company had 90 per cent of the new market for budget cruises.

Airtours faces little serious competition at the budget end of the market, although Thomson entered the cruise business this summer by chartering a ship in the Mediterranean.

Airtours' latest acquisition comes at the end of a week in which the company, in line with other tour operators, reduced capacity and increased the price of late summer package holidays by about £20 to £30 a person.

Airtours led the industry into capacity cuts of about 15 per cent this summer, reducing the number of available holidays from about 10 million to 8.5 million.

That move followed a disastrous 1995 in which overcapacity forced the main operators to slash prices at the end of the summer season simply to cover costs. The result was a collapse of margins and profits.

Maxwell claimants net £44m

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Administrators to the Maxwell Communication Corporation, part of the business empire of the late tycoon Robert Maxwell, have settled their claim against LLP, the US arm of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, netting $68m (£44m) for creditors.

The out-of-court settlement with the administrators, Price Waterhouse, comes three months before the case was due in court in New York. It brings the total amount recovered in the winding up of Maxwell Communication to more than $1bn for the first time.

Price Waterhouse said the settlement increases the projected final payout for creditors to between 46 per cent and 51 per cent of their original claim, excluding funds which are the subject of litigation, compared with the previous range of 44 per cent to 48 per cent.

The case against Coopers & Lybrand LLP centred around its role as auditor to the US publishers Macmillan Inc, which was a subsidiary of Maxwell Communications. Price Waterhouse alleged Coopers had failed to spot the transfer of shares in Berlitz International from Macmillan to the Mr Maxwell's private business.

The settlement, which was considerably less than Price Waterhouse's claim, is separate to an outstanding legal claim against Coopers & Lybrand's UK operation.

DUNFERMLINE
BUILDING SOCIETY

RATES OF INTEREST
from 17 August 1996

		Interest payable annually GROSS RATES	NET RATES† (ILLUSTRATIVE)
INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS Premium Plus Shares* (Including Bonus Interest)			
	£100,000+	5.95%	4.76%
£50,000 -	£99,999	5.75%	4.60%
£25,000 -	£49,999	5.40%	4.32%
£10,000 -	£24,999	4.95%	3.96%
Premium Shares			
	£100,000+	4.85%	3.88%
£50,000 -	£99,999	4.65%	3.72%
£25,000 -	£49,999	4.25%	3.40%
£10,000 -	£24,999	3.75%	3.00%
£5,000 -	£ 9,999	3.35%	2.68%
£500 -	£ 4,999	2.85%	2.28%
Dunfermline Gold			
	£25,000+	3.45%	2.76%
£10,000 -	£24,999	3.20%	2.56%
£5,000 -	£ 9,999	2.95%	2.36%
£2,500 -	£ 4,999	2.70%	2.16%
£500 -	£ 2,499	2.45%	1.96%
£100 -	£ 499	0.50%	0.40%
HeadStart Account £1 or more		2.50%	2.00%
Dunfermline Direct (Postal Account Only)			
	£100,000+	5.55%	4.44%
£50,000 -	£99,999	5.40%	4.32%
£25,000 -	£49,999	5.20%	4.16%
£10,000 -	£24,999	5.00%	4.00%
£5,000 -	£ 9,999	4.80%	3.84%
£2,000 -	£ 4,999	4.15%	3.32%
Dunfermline Tessas (Fifth Issue)		Tax Free Interest	
	£3,000 +	6.50%	
£100 -	£2,999	5.50%	
Dunfermline Tessas (First, Second, Third and Fourth Issues)			
Maximum Capital Option		6.50%	
All other options		5.50%	

PREMIUM PLUS SHARES*
Interest rates for this account include bonus interest of 0.75% gross p.a. payable if no withdrawals are made in the 12 months prior to the annual interest due date of 30 September.

INTEREST PAYABLE OTHER THAN ANNUALLY
Where interest on Premium and Premium Plus Accounts is payable monthly (or on Premium Account half yearly), the above annual rates are reduced by 0.50% gross.

OTHER INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS
The rates of interest payable on Gold Deposits, Scotgold Accounts, Treasurers Deposits and Special Deposits for Charities and Exempt Pension Funds will be in accordance with the tiers and rates shown above for Dunfermline Gold, except for balances in excess of £50,000 where the rate will be 4.05% gross p.a.
Details of the rates of interest applicable to all other investment accounts including closed issues are available from any branch office.

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Interest payable on or after 6 April 1996 will be paid or credited after deduction of income tax at the lower rate of 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For details and a registration form for payment of interest gross, please see Inland Revenue leaflet IR110 or call in to your local branch office. †The net rates quoted are for illustrative purposes assuming relevant rate of tax being 20%.
For further information on the Society's investment services write to the Society at the address below or call in to any branch office.

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BAe and Lagardère to merge missile sectors

British Aerospace and French defence and communications company Lagardère yesterday signed an agreement to merge their guided missile activities in a joint venture.

The deal will create Europe's largest guided weapons business, Matra BAe Dynamics, with annual turnover of around £1bn and a £2.6bn order book. It will employ about 6,000 people.

BAe and Lagardère said the signing marks a big step forward in the consolidation of the European defence industry. It will enable the industry to compete against US giants such as Lockheed Martin, which have emerged from a series of multi-billion dollar mergers in recent years.

Analysts gave the joint venture the thumbs-up: "Putting these two businesses together makes a lot of sense," said Guy Kekwick, aerospace analyst at Lehman Brothers. "The deal gives critical mass to British Aerospace's Dynamics (missiles) business which has been missing for some time."

The companies said they hoped Matra BAe Dynamics would draw in Thomson SA's guided weapons business if Lagardère succeeded with a proposed bid to buy the French state-owned defence and consumer electronics firm as part of a privatisation programme.

Under the final details of the deal, BAe will make an initial cash payment to Lagardère of £80m to reflect the current difference in value between Lagardere's Matra Defence and BAe Dynamics.

But the final amount to be paid will be adjusted to no less than £50m and no more than £110m, depending on who wins which orders over the next four years.

The announcement is the culmination of more than three years of negotiations between the two companies, which first announced that they were in talks in early 1993.

Industry sources said it is widely believed that political factors delayed the deal. The breakthrough came when Britain announced last month that it would buy Matra's Apache air-launched cruise missile in an order worth £800m, to be awarded to the BAe/Matra joint venture.

The joint venture is still subject to governmental and regulatory approval and both companies said it might be some months before it went ahead. Both are, however, confident of securing approval.

The head of BAe Defence, John Weston, will be chairman at Matra BAe, with Noel Forgeard, chief executive at Matra Défense Espace, as chief executive. BAe's finance director, Richard Lapthorne, and Phillipe Camus, the Lagardère director, will complete the four-man board.

British Aerospace shares closed up 11p at 964p.

John Weston: Set to be chairman of Matra BAe

IN BRIEF

• **The French Justice Minister**, Jacques Toubon, yesterday asked the Paris prosecutor to investigate whether former bosses of the state-owned bank Crédit Lyonnais could be prosecuted for irregularities over record losses. Finance Minister Jean Arthuis last week asked Mr Toubon to launch proceedings into alleged irregularities during Socialist-appointed Jean-Yves Haberer chairmanship of the bank. The ministry said Mr Arthuis had asked Mr Toubon to probe the accounts of Altus Finance, a Crédit Lyonnais subsidiary that Mr Haberer himself headed. It said any irregularity "if proved intentional, could constitute the offence of publishing false and deceptive information, or even falsifying and using falsified commercial documents". Mr Haberer was chairman of Crédit Lyonnais from 1988 until he was fired in 1993. The bank had to be bailed out after running up losses of Fr12bn (£1.5bn) in 1994. Mr Arthuis' request briefly undermined the franc last week as traders worried whether an inquiry could hurt Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet, who was head of the Treasury and in charge of supervising public banks in the early 1990s.

• **Cox Insurance**, which owns a managing agency in the Lloyd's of London insurance market, is in talks to buy another managing agency, Christopherson Heath. If a deal is struck, the combination would create the fourth-largest managing agency at Lloyd's, with capacity – the amount of business the market can underwrite in terms of premium income – of around £475m. The talks between the two agencies are another example of the increasingly rapid consolidation among underwriters at Lloyd's, often involving corporate funds.

• **Hewlett-Packard reported** a 26 per cent drop in third-quarter profits, reflecting a larger-than-expected slowdown in order growth and a one-time charge to quit the computer disk drive business. The maker of computers, printers and related equipment said it earned $425m (£274m), or 40 cents a share, in the three months ending 31 July, including a one-off pre-tax charge of $135m for closing the disk drive business.

• **Swedish car maker Saab**, jointly owned by General Motors of the US and Sweden's Investor, reported a pre-tax loss of Skr428m (£41.6m) for the first half of 1996 against a Skr195m profit in the corresponding period last year.

• **A High Court judge** yesterday refused to grant a Lloyd's of London investor action group leave to appeal against his decision to throw out a case for a judicial review against the insurance market's recovery plan. The Paying Names' Action Group had applied for a judicial review because it believed Lloyd's recovery proposals were unfair to those investors, or names, who had continued to meet cash calls to settle debts and traded on in the market. PNAG has until this Monday to apply to the separate Court of Appeal.

• **Costain** has agreed to sell its specialist pipeline business, Land & Marine Engineering, to Royal Nedlloyd Group for £11.3m. Of the total payment, £9.8m is payable at completion, and the balance is payable later this year. Land & Marine provides specialist pipeline-related construction services for the oil and gas industry and water companies. The sale is part of Costain's disposal programme, with which it aims to focus on its core engineering and construction activities.

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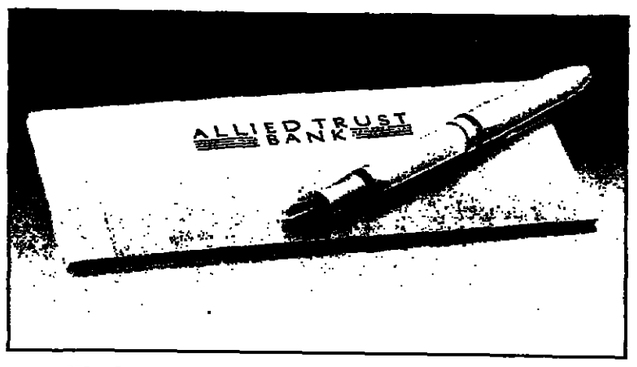

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607053

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3872.9+35.5

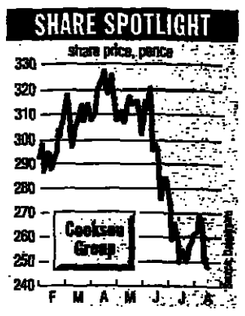
FT-SE 250
4366.4+10.4

FT-SE 350
1935.7+14.9

SEAQ VOLUME
602.3m shares,
30,227 bargains

Gilts Index
n/a

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Shares romp ahead in the grip of summer madness

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Shares stretched to a record high as the stock market continued what some of the cynics describe as "summer madness".

Although trading was far from enthusiastic – many big hitters are still on holiday – and a technical situation arose in the futures market, there is no doubt shares have taken on a new air of confidence in the past two weeks.

Interest rate cuts are still in the air and the feel-good factor is seeping through to the consumer. The PSBR figures underlined the possibility of Budget tax cuts and the profit and dividend record remains strong. To pile on the pleasure New York has not, as so many predicted, toppled; it remains confidently overvalued. A low level of housing starts provided the latest encouragement.

It was in such an atmosphere that the FT-SE 100 index romped ahead 35.5 points to 3,872.9, easily topping the previous peak of 3,857.1, achieved five months ago.

Blue chips have been in exhilarating form for much of this month, scoring 10 gains and only two reverses. The supporting 250 index has been firm although it remains more than 200 points from its peak. It rose 10.4 to 4,366.4. Where to now? Some hopefuls expect Footsie to reach 4,000 by the end of the month; others have set their sights on 4,000 for the year-end. But after the latest run even the more cheerful 1996 estimates may have to be lifted.

The market could, however, struggle on Monday when it seems a large batch of shares are due to go ex-dividend.

For **Thorn EMI** – to be split into Thorn, a rental group, and EMI, a highly rated showbiz operation on Monday – it was a triumphant Footsie farewell. With the demerger, to the surprise of no one, approved by shareholders, the shares soared 44p to 1,833p, just below their high. The Thorn arm is expected to start trading at around 410p with EMI, seen as a takeover target, nudging 1,400p. NatWest Securities believe any bid price will be around £20.

The arrival of twin thorns means that **Cookson**, the conglomerate, is dumped in the investment wilderness outside Footsie. After attempting to rally the shares fell back 2.5p to 248p, lowest for more than a year.

Railtrack was the best performing blue chip, gaining 9p to 248p on talk it had underperformed since it came to market in May and remains an appealing income stock. But some could not refrain from wondering whether corporate action loomed. After the takeover of Porterbrook, the rolling stock leasing company, by Stagecoach for a seemingly generous £825m the once mundane railway industry could be ripe for a series of bids.

BSkyB, expected to produce a 56 per cent profit increase to £256m on Tuesday, climbed 18p to 533p as Barclays de Zoete Wedd made encouraging noises.

Banks remained strong with **Lloyds TSB**, up 9.5p to 369p, taking up the running. Among merchant bankers **Hambros**, a long time takeover shot, rose 6p to 242p.

On the oil pitch **British Petroleum** climbed to yet another peak, 629p, with an 11p gain. **Shell**, enjoying SBC Warburg support, added 8p to 940p. **Frost**, the independent petrol retailer, pumped up an 8p gain to 113p on the lowering of the temperature in the petrol price war. It has risen 23p in two days.

Hanson suffered the humiliation of falling 3.5p to 163p after its lacklustre profit performance on Thursday and the lack of upbeat information about the four way demerger. UBS put the break up value at 160p to 164p. Earlier this year some analysts were talking about 240p. **BTR** lost 2.5p to 255.5p.

British Aerospace rose 11p to 964p on the Matra missiles venture. Elsewhere **British Steel** hardened 3p to 186.5p following Société Générale Strauss Turnbull buy advice.

Bass, expected to at last clinch the takeover of the Carlsberg-Tetley brewing group next week was a shade easier but **Allied Domecq**, owner of half of CT, rose 6p to 449p.

RTZ continued to firm on the improving copper price, up 10p at 969p, and **Bakyrchik** lost 33p to 293p following the loss of a Kazakstan gold licence by a consortium in which it is involved.

Colleagues, a recruitment group, produced its second profit warning within two weeks and fell another 26p to 119p. **Birkdale**, confirming its cash call, edged forward to 7p. The marketing group is raising £2.5m.

Allied Leisure gained 4.5p to 43.5p; it has completed the acquisition of the last of 19 Granada bowling businesses.

TAKING STOCK

❑ The transformation of Telecom Credit Europe continues. Now Meteor Technology, it has agreed to pay £1.6m, mainly in shares, for Paragon which provides pay phones in National Health and private hospitals as well as health centres. Earlier this month Meteor, in a reverse takeover, acquired DigiPhone Europe, marketing Internet telephone software (which allows long-distance calls to be made at cheap rates) and providing cash pay phones. Meteor shares held at 38p.

❑ A row has broken out at Scott Pickford, a maker of machinery testing equipment which said on Monday profits would be ahead of expectations. Kuwaiti businessman Nasser al Salem who has 52 per cent wants "significant board and management changes". The shares firmed to 42p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm All Paid Shares. ‡ AIM Stock
Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

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FT-SE 100 – Real-time	00	Sterling Rates	04	Privatisation Issues	36
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05	Water Shares	39
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

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Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include VAT

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000
Hanson	1760000	British Steel	770000	BP	710000	Grand Met.	650000
Railtrack	1260000	British Gas	750000	Comm. Union	710000	Lloyds TSB	600000
Prudential	1050000	Carlton Comms.	750000	General Elec.	710000	Glaxo Wellcome	550000
LASMO	920000	BAT Inds.	730000	Williams Hldgs.	690000	Royal Bk Scot	550000
BTR	870000	BT	730000	ASDA Group	660000	Tesco	550000

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3842.9 up 5.5		11.00 3858.6 up 21.4	14.00 3856.3 up 18.9
09.00 3852.8 up 15.5		12.00 3852.7 up 15.3	15.00 3863.5 up 26.1
10.00 3858.7 up 21.3		13.00 3853.5 up 15.1	16.00 3871.5 up 34.1
			Close 3872.9 up 35.5

Alcoholic Beverages

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Banks, Merchant

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Banks, Retail

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Building/Construction

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Building Materials

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Chemicals

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Distributors

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Diversified Industrials

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Electricity

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Electronics

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Engineering

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Engineering Vehicles

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Extractive Industries

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Food Manufacturers

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Gas Distribution

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Health Care

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Household Goods

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Insurance

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Internationals

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Investment Companies

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Investment Trusts

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Leisure & Hotels

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Life Assurance

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Media

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Oil Exploration

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Oil, Integrated

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Other Financial

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Property

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Pharmaceuticals

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Printing & Paper

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Retailers, Food

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Retailers, General

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Support Services

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Telecommunications

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Textiles & Apparel

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Transport

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Water

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Index P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Government Securities

Index-linked

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Shorts

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Undated

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Mediums

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Longs

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Chg
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Chg
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

THE INDEPENDENT

Win a Historic Break

Three atmospheric country house hotels in West Sussex, the Elizabethan Ockenden Manor in Cuckfield, the Spread Eagle Hotel, a 15th Century coaching inn in Midhurst and Bailiffscourt, a mediaeval folly in Climping are offering Independent readers the chance to win a luxurious break including two nights accommodation, breakfast and dinner on one night for 3 couples.

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To enter, simply dial the number below, answer the two questions on line and leave your details. So call:

0891 161 945

Calls cost 39p/min cheap rate, 49p/min all other times. Winner picked at random after lines close 30th August 96. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Prize subject to availability.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

unit trusts

UK GROWTH & INCOME

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

UK EQUITY & BOND

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

UK EQUITY & BOND INCOME

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

GILT & FIXED INTEREST

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

UK GROWTH

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

INTERNATIONAL FIXED INTEREST

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

INVESTMENT TRUST UNITS

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

FINANCIAL & PROPERTY SHARES

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

INTERNATIONAL GROWTH

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

UK EQUITY INCOME

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

NORTH AMERICA

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

EUROPE

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

JAPAN

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

FAR EAST (INCLUDING JAPAN)

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

COMMODITY & ENERGY

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

INTERNATIOANL EQUITY INCOME

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

FUND OF FUNDS

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

UK SMALLER COMPANIES

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

FAR EAST (EXCLUDING JAPAN)

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY & BOND

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

MANAGED BONDS

Fund	Estbd	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Over 1 Year Value £100	Rank
[illegible]						

Top three performing funds of each sector are highlighted in bold at the top of each sector. The two end columns showing the value of £100 and rank over one year are based on offer to bid prices with income reinvested. All funds are more than one year old. Fund sizes taken on the first day of the previous month. The Independent publishes other unit trust information Tuesday to Friday.
Source: FT Information/TSW

SECTOR AVERAGES

	Fund size £M	Over 1 Yr Value £100	*Number of funds
UK Equity Income	1367	1048	81
UK Equity & Bond	1558	1082	15
UK Equity & Bond Income	1127	1029	15
Gilt & Fixed Interest	327	1042	35
International Fixed Interest	323	1027	33
Investment Trust Units	815	1129	15
Financial & Property Shares	532	1103	9
International Growth	757	1058	146
North America	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Europe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Australia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Far East (including Japan)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Commodity & Energy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
International Equity Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fund of Funds	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Smaller Companies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Far East (excluding Japan)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
International Equity & Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Convertible & Gilts	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Managed Bonds	1428	1054	178

*Excludes funds, that are less than one year old

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	DOLLAR Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK Spot
US	15453	6-4	13-10	1000	–	–	06696
Canada	21264	11-3	50-37	13734	2-1	3-0	09196
Germany	23124	48-41	140-130	14935	36-34	94-81	10000
France	79002	132-113	365-334	51025	73-66	217-207	34165
Italy	23529	48-63	142-166	15197	44-51	123-135	101.51
Japan	16705	75-70	225-218	10799	45-44	136-133	72.2397
ECU	12273	15-11	45-40	12615	7-8	23-25	05307
Belgium	47641	12-7	32-25	30770	6-5	18-16	20.6026
Denmark	89407	159-115	446-235	57745	85-65	270-220	38664
Netherlands	25938	65-57	180-174	16753	35-32	107-102	11217
Ireland	09658	7-3	20-14	16066	4-7	12-17	04168
Norway	99867	120-50	310-200	64501	42-17	110-60	43188
Spain	19531	21-31	63-85	12615	23-27	64-72	84.4627
Sweden	10282	0-6	1-9	66408	3-22	40-11	44465
Switzerland	18761	54-46	155-152	12117	37-34	113-107	08113
Australia*	19745	20-31	67-85	12752	19-21	54-56	08538
Hong Kong	11975	101-61	224-170	77343	2-12	15-35	51786
Malaysia	38616	0-0	0-0	24942	4-14	60-80	16700
New Zealand*	22464	43-57	133-156	14507	30-32	86-90	09714
Saudi Arabia	58071	0-0	0-0	37506	2-7	9-14	25113
Singapore	21811	0-0	0-0	14087	41-30	103-88	09432

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15466	09987	Nigeria	123578	798000
Austria	162723	105398	Oman	05962	03850
Brazil	15690	1012	Pakistan	549608	354945
China	128641	83069	Philippines	40.6198	26.2300
Egypt	52584	33969	Portugal	236967	153050
Finland	69413	44923	Qatar	56363	36410
Ghana	280219	168100	Russia	821842	530700
Greece	369083	238.340	South Africa	70539	45550
India	55196	356000	Taiwan	425633	274850
Kuwait	04640	02996	UAE	56882	36731

Note: Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount (subtract from spot rate), those quoted low to high are at a premium (add to spot rate). *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033. Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate) 49p other times.

Tourist Rates

£ Buys		£ Buys		£ Buys	
Australia(Dollars)	19175	France(Francs)	7.875	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.1850
Austria(Schillings)	157100	Germany(Marks)	2.2350	Norway(Kroner)	9.7000
Belgium(Francs)	45.9800	Greece(Drachmae)	360.0000	Portugal(Escudos)	230.2500
Canada(Dollars)	20775	Hong Kong(Dollars)	11.0825	Spain(Pesetas)	189.5000
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.6915	Ireland(Punts)	0.9375	Sweden(Kronor)	10.1250
Denmark(Kroner)	8.6825	Italy(Lira)	2.3380000	Switzerland(Francs)	1.8025
Holland(Guilders)	2.5100	Japan(Yen)	165.0000	Turkey(Lira)	127330.000
Finland(Marks)	6.8525	Malta(Lira)	0.5360	United States(Dollars)	1.5160

Interest Rates

UK		**Germany**		**US**		**Japan**	
Base	5.75%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.25%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	**Belgium**	
Intervention	3.55%	**Canada**		Fed Funds	5.25%	Discount	2.50%
Italy		Prime	7.00%	**Spain**		Central	3.30%
Discount	8.25%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	7.25%	**Switzerland**	
Netherlands		**Denmark**		**Sweden**		Discount	1.50%
Advances	2.80%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Ave)	5.90%	Lombard	4.025%

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	7½%	7.6	7¾%	7.76	Netherlands	8¾%	5.4	6¼%	6.6
US	6⅞%	6.30	6⅝%	6.56	Spain	10.10%	8.05	10.15%	8.80
Japan	5.51%	2.53	3⅛%	3.14	Italy	9¼%	8.81	9½%	8.39
Australia	8⅞%	7.53	10%	8.03	Belgium	5%	5.40	7%	6.42
Germany	5.38¼%	5.16	6.25¼%	6.23	Sweden	10%	7.31	6%	8.00
France	5⅛%	5.46	7.25%	6.28	ECU OAT	6%	5.78	7½%	6.71

Source: HSBC Markets Research. Yields calculated on local basis. ** Denotes new benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'Night		7 Day		1 Month		3 Months		6 Months		1 Year	
Interbank	4	6	5⅛	5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¹¹⁄₁₆	5⁹⁄₁₆	5¾	5½	5⅞	5¾	6⅛	6
Sterling CDs	-		-		5⅝		5¾		5⅞		5⅞	
Local Authority Deps	5¾		5¹¹⁄₁₆		5⅝		5⅝		5¾		6	
Discount Market Deps	5½		5½		-		-		-		-	
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-		-		5⅝		5⅝		-		-	
Dollar CDs	-		-		5.10		5.18		5.27		5.48	
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	-	-	4⅞	4¾	4⅞	4¾	4⅞	4¾	4⅞	4¾

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low for day		EstConts traded	Open interest
Long Gilt	(Sep 96)	108-08	108-12	107-28	41461	148536
German Bond	(Sep 96)	98.17	98.28	97.94	112035	230780
J.G.Bond	(Sep 96)	120.75	120.75	120.45	3293	0
Italian Bond	(Sep 96)	116.75	117.05	116.67	21302	61211
3M Sterling	(Sep 96)	94.20	94.21	94.19	6387	70941
	(Dec 96)	94.15	94.17	94.13	11572	106851
3M Euro $	(Dec 96)	99.13	99.14	99.13	280	N/A
3M Euromark	(Sep 96)	96.74	96.75	96.72	18381	172331
	(Dec 96)	96.74	96.75	96.71	33885	236432
E.C.U	(Sep 96)	95.63	95.63	95.61	419	9257
	(Dec 96)	95.65	95.65	95.61	304	6132
Euro SFr	(Sep 96)	97.72	97.75	97.70	3445	26614
FT-SE 100	(Sep 96)	3882.0	3890.0	3851.0	16642	61239
FT-SE 250	(Sep 96)	4383.0			0	3768
Eurolira	(Sep 96)	91.48	91.54	91.46	9376	67068

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price: 3872.00	closing offer price				Call/Put
Series	3800	3850	3900	3950	Total/vols
Aug	72/0	22/0	0/28	0/78	--
Sep	103/21	67/35	38/56	19/86	--
Oct	124/38	91/56	61/78	39/105	--
Nov	144/55	116/73	85/96	60/121	--

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange

$/tonne		Cash	3 mths	Volume	LME Stocks		chg
Index	1970=100	198.31	-0.75	20350	-2.55	175.80	+12.80
Agricultural	1970=100	268.97	-0.34	281.75	-4.54	249.28	+8.33
Energy	1983=100	69.59	-1.08	71.31	-1.86	56.77	+23.28
Indust'l Metals	1977=100	164.36	-0.67	183.32	-14.98	214.41	-23.34
Livestock	1970=100	198.84	-0.28	182.71	+7.73	172.45	+14.04
Precious Metals	1973=100	493.51	+0.08	489.86	+0.75	496.93	-0.69

†Close as of 15 Aug 1996. Settlement Conversion exchange rate: £/$ [illegible]

PRECIOUS METALS

per fin./oz	$	£	Coins	$	£		$	£
Platinum	398.00	256.85	Britannia	402	260	Krugerrands	378/386	244/251
Palladium	124.25	80.20	Britannia.5 oz	204	132	Sovs	88/94	57/61
Silver spot	508.25	327.75	Britannia.25 oz	104	67	Nobles	392/407	253/263
Gold Bulln	388.20	249.98	Britannia.10 oz	51	33	Maple Leaf	387/402	250/260

Source: Spink & Son

AGRICULTURAL (data as at 15 Aug 96)

Cocoa LCE	£/tonne	Coffee LCE	$/tonne	Barley LCE	£/tonne	Potatoes LCE	£/tonne	Potatoes ATA	£/tonne
Sep	1030	Sep	1704	Sep	89.25	Nov	85.00	-	-
Dec	1036	Nov	1677	Nov	102.40	Mar	110.00	Feb	23
Mar	1048	Jan	1635	Jan	104.50	Apr	84.40	Apr	17
Vol	5,329	Vol	6,516	Vol	186	Vol	52	Vol	172

White Sugar LCE	$/tonne	Freight LCE	$10/index pt	Wheat LCE	£/tonne	Corn CBOT#	Cents/bushel (1230 Prices)	
							Hi-Lo	Settl
Oct	348.70	Aug	1133	Sep	107.65			
Dec	344.60	Sep	1210	Nov	109.60	Sept	381-75-374.00	375.00
Mar	342.20	Vol	402	Jan	111.45	Dec	354.50-346.50	348.75
Vol	2090	Index	1090	Vol	524	Mar	360.00-355.00	355.00

Source: CMS

Other Softs (Agricultural)

Nov	Maize (No3)**	$/tonne	141.50	Nov/Jan	Soya Oil§	FL/100kg	98.00
Aug/Sep	Copra (†)	$/tonne	153.00	Jul/Aug	Coconut Oil (†)	$/tonne	800.00
Oct	Cotton (NY)	UScent/lb	73.05	unq	Sunflower Oil§	$/tonne	unq
Aug	Wool	Acent/kg	70.00	Nov/Jan	Rapeseed Oil§	FL/100kg	98.00
Sep	Rubber*	Mcent/kg	322.00	Jul/Aug	Groundnut Oil	$/tonne	900.00

Origin: §Dutch/EC - early origin - †Philippines/Indonesia *Malaysia **N Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

ENERGY (data as at 15 Aug 96)

Brent Crude		($/barrel)		Gasoil	($/tonne)	WTI		Products †	($/tonne)
IPE	5.30pm	*chg	Yr ago	IPE	close	*chg	6pm	Spot CIF North West Europe	
Sep	20.56	-0.09	16.58	Aug	184.00	-0.25 Sep	21.90	Unleaded Gasoline	210/212
Oct	19.98	-0.15	16.55	Sep	183.00	-0.50 Oct	21.40	Heavy Fuel Oil	186/187
Nov	19.56	-0.14	16.53	Oct	181.75	-0.50 Nov	20.90	Naphtha	91.93
Vol	26,076	Index	20.57	Vol	8,809	Dec	20.45	EC Gasoil	192/193

*since 5.30pm previous day. Year ago prices show average for week. Source: ICIS-London Oil Reports. 10pm prices

COMMODITY INDICES

*GSCI Indices	Base date	+Spot	%Day Chg	Dec 31st	% Yr to dt chg	Year ago	% Yr chg
Index	1970=100	198.31	-0.75	203.50	-2.55	175.80	+12.80
Agricultural	1970=100	268.97	-0.34	281.75	-4.54	249.28	+8.33
Energy	1983=100	69.59	-1.08	71.31	-1.86	56.77	+23.28
Indust'l Metals	1977=100	164.36	-0.67	183.32	-14.98	214.41	-23.34
Livestock	1970=100	198.84	-0.28	182.71	+7.73	172.45	+14.14
Precious Metals	1973=100	493.51	+0.08	489.88	+0.75	496.93	-0.69

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. *GSCI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 15 Aug '96

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer	Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer
Abbey Equity Ser 4	2650		2790	Legal & General Managed Accum	9609		10115
Abbey International Ser 4	2223		2340	London & Manchester Flexible Acc		6553	
Abbey Managed Ser 4	7733		8141	London Equity		103950	
Abbey National Managed	1384		1457	London Mixed		98340	
Abbey National UK Equity	1444		1520	M & G Managed Bond Acc	10083		10567
Albany Equity Acc Ser 3	18881		19880	M & G Recovery Bond Acc	9209		9671
Albany Multiple Inv Acc S3	12116		12753	Merchant Investors Managed	5520		5810
Allied Dunbar Distribution Bond	2530		2670	Midland Balanced	971		1023
Allied Dunbar Equity Acc	16928		17827	Midland UK Equity	1657		1718
Allied Dunbar Gen + High Income Ser	23380		3680	NatWest Growth Managed	1392		1466
Allied Dunbar Managed Acc	13307		13687	NatWest Security Mgd	1261		1327
Allied Dunbar Property Acc	63418		66750	NatWest UK Equity	1472		1549
AXA Equity & Law Bal Ser 6	6359		6690	Norwich Union Mgd Ex NUAM MF	17103		18003
AXA Equity & Law Def Ser 6	1821		1914	Norwich Union Unitised Managed	16855		17848
AXA Equity & Law Hi Inc Bal 6	12158		12798	Norwich Union Unitised With Profits	16326		17184
AXA Equity & Law UK Eq Ser 6	10927		11507	NPI Managed	5758		6063
Barclays Equity Acc	10298		10840	Pearl Equity Nat	3134		3299
Barclays International Acc	4623		4867	Pearl Managed	2875		3027
Barclays Managed Acc	6121		6445	Prudential Prufund Managed	4065		4257
Black Horse Income Fund Ser 2	8792		9242	Prudential Indiv Mgd Ser 2	9523		10025
Black Horse Mngd Inv S2	56271		59233	Royal Life Managed	4525		4773
Canada Managed Ser 2	8389		8829	Royal Scottish Growth Managed	1950		2052
CM/Fid Equity	3930		4137	Royal Scottish UK Equity	1889		2023
CM/Fid Sapphire/Mixed	3374		3552	Scottish Amicable Equity Ser 1	7159		7536
CM With Profits Bond	1058		1058	Scottish Amicable Managed Ser 1	5480		5758
Confederation Equity I	19946		20995	Scottish Equitable Mixed	3066		3218
Commercial Union Managed	4692		4938	Scottish Life Managed	3398		3578
Commercial Union UK Equity	5877		6187	Scottish Mutual Safety	2643		2783
Commercial Union With Profit	1336		1407	Scot Prov Ind Blue Chip	1815		1913
Eagle Star Managed 2	1875		1974	Scot Prov Ind With-Profits	1303		1372
Family Performance	1225		1285	Scottish Widows International	5799		6106
Friends Provident Managed	3619		3810	Scottish Widows Mixed	5408		5693
Friends Provident UK Equity	4837		5097	Standard Equity	12304		12952
Friends Provident With Profit	2035		2143	Standard European	1922		2078
General Accident With Profit	1541		1623	Standard Far East	1826		1923
GA Prov Mutual Eq Dist	8755		9216	Standard Fixed Interest	4452		4687
GA Prov Mutual Mgd Dist	6557		6849	Standard Managed	8315		8753
Gan Managed	3538		3723	Sun Alliance Equity	10890		11598
GRE Equity Acc	12397		1305	Sun Alliance Managed	8043		8467
GRE International Acc	7819		802	Sun Life Deferred Distribution	1805		3008
GRE Managed Acc	7843		8328	Sun Life Distribution	2926		3081
Hill Samuel Equity	7388		7786	Sun Life Equity Acc	17556		18480
Hill Samuel Managed Ser A	6406		6775	Sun Life Managed Acc	10435		10985
Irish Life Global Mgd Prem Ser 3	6660		7008	Sun Life Can Century Eq		1412	
J Rothschild SLI Place Mgd	1821		1917	Sun Life Can Century Mgd		1288	
Laurentian Imperial UK Mgd Acc	3122		3318	Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Eq Acc	622.2		654.9
Laurentian Managed Acc Ser 3	6209		6535	Sun Life Can Maple Leaf Mgd Acc	4471		4707
Laurentian UK Equity Acc	5379		5662	TSB Equity	4407		4639
Legal & General Equity Acc	13868		14544	TSB Homebuyer	2668		2810
Legal & General International Acc	6324		6657	TSB Managed	3341		3517

SATURDAY 17 AUGUST 1996

TAKING STOCK

□ The transformation of Telemis Credit Europe continues. New Metrol Technology, it has agreed to pay £[illegible]m, mainly in shares, for Paragon which provides pay phones in National Health and private hospitals as well as health centres. Earlier this month Metrol, in a reverse takeover, acquired DigiPhone Europe, marketing Internet telephone software which allows long-distance calls to be made at cheap rates and providing cash pay phones. Metrol shares held at 35p.

□ A row has broken out at Scott Pickford, a maker of machinery testing equipment which said on Monday profits would be ahead of expectations. Kuwaiti businessman Nasser al Salem who has 52 per cent wants "significant board and management changes". The shares firmed to 42p.

[illegible]

Telecommunications

Textiles & Apparel

Transport

Water

Rights Issues

Recent Issues

sport

WATERSKIING: British pair prepare to attempt the conquest of Europe. **Louis Jebb** reports

Speed and smoke on the water

Jason Seels will be 20 on Wednesday and Sarah Gatty Saunt is two months his senior. Seels started to waterski when he was seven, Gatty Saunt when she was four, and both have competed internationally since they were 12. They represent a bright future but also the glowing present of the sport in Britain, and are members of the national team for the European Championships that begin at Vallensbaeck, near Copenhagen, on Thursday.

Their dedication is one of the main reasons why waterskiing has established a winning tradition in Britain on the back of championship success in the early 1980s – unlike a host of sports that were represented, and much lamented, at the Atlanta Olympics.

British waterskiing experienced a dip in fortunes at senior level in the early 1990s, but the present squad have a real chance of winning the European title in Denmark, with Italy and France as their main rivals. They are a young group, with a leavening of experience and continuity with the glory days – when Mike Hazelwood was Britain's last world champion in 1977 – provided by Philippa Roberts, who is appearing in her 20th European Championships at the age of 36, and skiing better than ever. The other team members are Jodi Fisher, 26, Paul Price, 18, the national jump champion, and Tom Asher, 15. Asher, who is Hazelwood's nephew, won the individual silver medal at the World Junior Championships last week at Edmonton, Canada, and Britain won the team silver.

Seels was born to British parents in South Africa. At the age of 11 he arrived in Britain for a holiday to visit relations, and skied in the National Junior Championships, winning most of the events. With South Africa excluded from international competition, the family moved to Britain so that Jason could compete for the British team.

This is the seventh successive summer in which he has visited the National Water Sports Centre, at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, for national squad training. In those seven years he has picked up a sequence of titles at Dauphin (under-14), junior (under-17), under-21 and senior level, culminating with the European under-21 title for the past two years, and the overall British senior title. Seels, who has just completed his first year of a degree in Sports Science at Portsmouth, spoke modestly about his achievements when he and Gatty Saunt broke from training at Holme Pierrepont this week. But the British team have high hopes for him.

Gatty Saunt's interest in the sport dates back to family holidays by the sea in North Wales. She "messed around" with the sport until seeing the World Championships at Thorpe Park, Surrey, on television when she was 11 years old. Karen Morse, a celebrated international competitor, advised her to go on a talent-spotting weekend, and within a year Sarah was representing Britain. She won European slalom events at all three junior levels and is the reigning British tricks champion.

In the year she left school, she ruptured the ligaments in her left knee when practising a jump – where the skier comes on to the sloping jump ramp at anything up to 70mph – and took a year off after surgery. A typical year has her temping in an office in London from September to December before spending four months skiing in Australia before the European season.

> They are both leanly but strongly built – more like high hurdlers than flat sprinters

Her mentor for many years has been John Battleday, another leading light from Hazelwood's and Morse's generation. Both she and Seels have spent much of their careers training with Battleday at the club at Kirtons Farm, near Reading. Earlier this year Seels broke Battleday's 12-year-old record for tricks – a sequence of jump, flips, twists and turns on a short, wide board in two 20-second passes – when he tricked 8,930 points, compared to Battleday's 8,650 in 1984.

This weekend the season goes into overdrive. Seels and Gatty Saunt both compete in the British Under-21 Nationals at Hazelwoods, in Lincolnshire, today and tomorrow, before a squad get-together at Prince's club, at Staines, in Middlesex, on Monday, and the flight to Denmark on Tuesday. There are cash prizes on offer at the Café de Colombia British Masters at Kirtons Hotel, starting on 30 August, before the European Under-21s at Thorpe Park, on 14-15 September, when Seels defends his overall title.

They are both leanly but strongly built – more like high hurdlers than flat sprinters – and the impression they give as they glide, hop and flick across the lake at Holme Pierrepont is one of lightness and explosive agility. As they go through their routines on a fine day, their faces are fixed in a smile – one of pleasure at skimming across the water, raising a spray – that has increased rather than faded over the years of practice.

Waterworld: Sarah Gatty Saunt (front) and Jason Seels practise their moves at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, in the countdown to next week's European Waterskiing Championships in Denmark Photograph: Mike Egerton/Empics

Riis takes centre stage in Yorkshire

Cycling
ROBIN NICHOLL

When Bjarne Riis wore the spotted jersey of premier mountain climber for one day in the Tour de France, he was jokingly tagged "the Eagle".

Last month, when his 1.87 metre frame bore the yellow jersey of Tour victor to the Paris podium, he was the great Dane – and his rivals knew it was no joke. He had waited in the wings for years, serving the cause of others but, after toppling the mighty Miguel Indurain from his Tour perch, Riis arrives in Leeds this weekend at centre stage.

He has had few chances to enjoy his new fame. After the Tour he went to the Olympics, and now faces the build-up to the World Road Championships in Lugano in October. Tall and bald, he is a respected figure among his racing contemporaries. Yet, eight years ago, Riis was concerned that he would not make the professional grade.

"A blank year in 1988 had me thinking that it was over before it had really started," he said, after taking the gamble of basing himself in Luxembourg to be closer to the "fast lane" of professional racing.

However his strengths had been recognised by Laurent Fignon, who twice won the Tour for France. Riis was taken on by Fignon's Super U team after a hard time in a small team earning 4,000 francs a month.

The Dane repaid Fignon's faith with devoted teamwork that attracted other offers, and Riis's developing talents eventually paid off for Italy's Moreno Argentin, a classics specialist, and Russian Yevgeny Berzin, the 1994 Tour of Italy winner. "I have had top team managers, but never the support of a team until now," Riis said, after upsetting Indurain's plans to set a record of six consecutive Tour wins.

The 232 kilometres of tomorrow's Leeds Classic offers climbs of Holme Moss and Woodhead that Riis will take in his lengthy stride but, having made his season with his Tour success, this could be just another victory parade.

Otherwise, it will be a scenic Yorkshire moorland tour for the 126 riders on a route that has been rated as testing as the best of Europe's long-established classics. British fans seldom get the chance to see the yellow-jersey incumbent so soon after the Tour, and have been starved of high-level racing since the Milk Race and the Kellogg's Tour failed to find new sponsors.

The real focus, however, is on the tussle for the World Cup, of which the Classic is the seventh of an 11-round series. Johan Museeuw wants to keep the Cup in Belgium for a second year and, after failing to score points in last week's round in San Sebastian, will be seeking all he can muster from Sunday's race.

Especially so, after a fruitless attempt for Olympic success. He used the Tour de France as training for Atlanta, and when that quest foundered, Museeuw had enough points in the World Cup bank to further that ambition. The Spanish round, however, was a disaster. He failed to take any points.

Museeuw leaves The Headrow start tomorrow at 9am, with a lead of 24 points, facing six hours in the saddle, and a sinking feeling that the Yorkshire terrain will not suit the man who bounced to victory over the infamous cobbled route of the Paris-Roubaix classic in April.

Although his main rival, Italy's Stefano Zanini, is not contesting the Leeds round, Museeuw will be watchful for Ukraine's Alex Gontchenkov and the Italian, Fabio Baldato.

If one of those grabs the victory maximum of 50 points, and Museeuw has another pointless ride, the Cup scrap could be tense until the end of October when the final round is raced in Japan.

Museeuw can only hope that

Riis: No stranger to yellow

Max Sciandri, last year's winner, is still feeling ambitious after winning an Olympic road race bronze for Britain. The Derby-born Italian is no Cup threat but could take vital points away from Museeuw's rivals. So, too, could Sciandri's American team-mate, Lance Armstrong who also specialises in single-day races.

Britain's other Olympic bronze, Chris Boardman, turns out for GAN to give the British crowds someone else to shout about. Holme Moss and Woodhead, where most fans will be crammed, are far removed from his recent training ground on the wooden surface of Manchester velodrome. Boardman's sights are, however, fixed on the World Track Championships which open there on 28 August.

The Cup series is limited usually to the top 25 European teams, but the Union Cycliste Internationale has agreed to allow the British team of Ambrosia to compete, which brings the start list to 16 teams.

With Ambrosia's six plus Sciandri, Boardman, and Sean Yates, the host nation has its biggest representation yet in its only world-class road race.

Agassi pays the price

Tennis

Andre Agassi, who was defaulted from the RCA Championships tournament in Indianapolis on Wednesday, has been fined ($6,000) £4,000.

In addition to the fine, Agassi will not receive any prize-money, which would have amounted to $6,040, nor any ATP Tour points for the event, which will remain a part of his ranking for the next 52 weeks. His no-point showing cannot be erased for the next year from the best-of-14 system in place on the tour.

The Olympic champion was defaulted in a second-round match against the Canadian Daniel Nestor for swearing at the umpire, Dana Laconto. The decision was taken by the ATP Tour supervisor, Mark Darby, though Agassi, the No 3 seed and world No 6, claimed he should not have been immediately disqualified but given a penalty point first.

Despite his disqualification Agassi will return to play in the event next year.

The Sporting Life

OUT TOMORROW

Racing at Brighton & Pontefract plus all the football action

STRATFORD

HYPERION
2.20 Jennyellen 2.50 Maple Dancer 3.20 Zine Lane 3.50 Wynberg 4.20 Wise Advice 4.55 Sirtelimar 5.25 Anabranch

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places - watered).
■ Left-hand course with 200yd run-in.
■ Racecourse is south-west of Stratford-on-Avon on A439. Railway station 1m away. ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersalls £8; Course £4. CAR PARK: Inside course £2, remainder free.

SIS

RACING CHANNEL

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: The Lorryman (2.50).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Stately Home (4.20) won at Worcester on Saturday.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Viardot (2.20) sent 198 miles from Mrs M Reveley's Lingdale stable in Cleveland; Wise Advice (4.20) sent 171 miles from M Hammond's stable in North Yorkshire.

2.20 RICHARDSONS FORT RETAIL PARK CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110yds

1 612P-13 DIAMOND CUT (FR) (2) M Pipe 8 11 8 .... B Moore (7)
2 /f12331- VIARDOT (82) (D) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 5 .... P Niven
3 2U-3104 MILZIG (USA) (17) J Joseph 7 11 2 .... D Skyrme
4 6/15-31F JENNYELLEN (12) (CD) P Bowen 7 11 0 .... R Johnson
5 P230-P0 MERLINS WISH (USA) (21) M Pipe 7 10 13 .... G Supple (7)
6 304/0-60 RIVA'S BOOK (USA) (35) M Meagher 5 10 13 .... A P McCoy
7 4-0 GOODNIGHT VIENNA (30) M Sheppard 6 10 8 Mr M Munrowd
8 540010/- ACROW LINE (476) (C) (D) D Burchell 11 10 7 .... D J Burchell
9 P-5 FATTASH (USA) (8) P Mooney 4 10 5 .... S Ryan (5)
10 6440-01 JOLI'S GREAT (14) M Ryan 8 10 5 .... D Gallagher B
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Diamond Cut, 5-2 Viardot, 5-1 Jennyellen, 8-1 Milzig, Merlins Wish, Acrow Line, 10-1 Joli's Great, 20-1 others

2.50 MONKS CROSS RICHARDSONS RETAIL DEVELOPMENT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m

1 225P5-1 SOHAIL (USA) (14) (C) J King 13 12 0 .... R Dunwoody
2 1/41133- PAPER STAR (354) M Muggeridge 9 12 0 .... B Powell
3 66-P23P THE BLUE BOY (21) (CD) (BF) P Bowen 8 11 13 ... R Johnson B
4 0/4224P- SOME DAY SOON (205) M Bradstock 11 11 11 .... P Holley
5 P22-211 MAPLE DANCER (21) (CD) A Hobbs 10 11 10 Mr G Shenkin (7)
6 UP-P610 HURRYUP (7) R Dickin 9 11 2 .... J Culloty (3)
7 613/-P0P THE LORRYMAN (14) N Mitchell 8 10 10 .... G Upton B
8 150F-0S BOXING MATCH (21) J Bradley 9 10 0 .... B Fenton
– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Boxing Match 9st 13lb.
BETTING: 7-4 Maple Dancer, 7-2 Sohail, 4-1 Paper Star, 5-1 Some Day Soon, 6-1 The Blue Boy, 8-1 Hurryup, 16-1 others

3.20 STRATFORD-ON-AVON FOODS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 110yds

1 4030-F0 KUTAN (58) Mrs Barbara Waring 6 11 5 .... E Byrne
2 0/FP-PFP ON THE LEDGE (12) H Manners 6 11 5 .... A Dowling (7)
3 0464- PRINCE DE BERRY (588) B Meehan 5 11 5 .... A P McCoy
4 DANTEAN R O'Sullivan 4 11 2 .... D O'Sullivan
5 6 SAINT AMIGO (17) C Cowley 4 11 2 .... J A McCarthy
6 5-32 ZINE LANE (30) Major W R Hern 4 11 2 .... R Farrant
7 00- ATHENIAN ALLIANCE (267) J Bradley 7 11 0 ... Guy Lewis (3)
8 0/0000/- TIGH-NA-MARA (500) J Jefferson 8 11 0 ... E Callaghan (5)
9 LILAC RAIN R Stronge 4 10 11 .... W McFarland
10 00-P MINDIA (17) H Manners 4 10 11 .... Mr A Charles-Jones
– 10 declared –

BETTING: Evens Zine Lane, 5-1 Prince De Berry, 8-1 Dantean, 10-1 Kutan, Tigh-Na-Mara, 12-1 Lilac Rain, 16-1 others

3.50 STEVENAGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f 110yds

1 230-313 WYNBERG (35) Capt T Forster 5 11 6 .... S Wynne
2 CROSSING THE STYX K Wingrove 10 11 0 ... Miss A Embiricos
3 0 HATTA RIVER (USA) (89) P Dalton 6 11 0 .... R Johnson
4 ROSKEEN BRIDGE C Weedon 5 11 0 .... M Richards
– 4 declared –

BETTING: 4-5 Wynberg, 11-4 Roskeen Bridge, 7-2 Crossing The Styx, 10-1 Hatta River

4.20 PARKWAY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 1f 110yds

1 5-31111 STATELY HOME (7) (CD) P Bowen 5 12 0 .... R Johnson
2 2223-62 FULL O'PRAISE (NZ) (29) (BF) P Calver 9 12 0 .... L Wyer
3 P2-0643 WISE ADVICE (7) M Hammond 6 11 4 .... A Thornton
4 61FF-4 DAYS OF THUNDER (8) (D) Mrs S Odell 8 10 13 .... B Fenton
5 0-23033 FLYING ZIAD (CAN) (12) H Manners 13 10 0 ... A Dowling (7)
– 5 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Flying Ziad 9st 9lb.
BETTING: 6-4 Stately Home, 2-1 Full O'Praise, 7-2 Wise Advice, 10-1 Flying Ziad, 14-1 Days Of Thunder

4.55 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

1 1211-1 PETER MONAMY (15) (D) M Pipe 4 12 0 .... D Walsh
2 P2U4/1-6 ASTERIX (7) J Bradley 8 11 10 .... B Fenton
3 114/PP-4 SIRTELIMAR (12) (D) K Bailey 7 11 10 .... T J Murphy
– 3 declared –

BETTING: 4-6 Peter Monamy, 7-4 Sirtelimar, 6-1 Asterix.

5.25 STRATFORD-ON-AVON FOODS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 110yds

1 6F65-30 AGAINST THE CLOCK (59) J Mullins 4 11 2 .... S Curran
2 P FLASHING SABRE (17) H Manners 4 11 2 .... A Dowling (7)
3 5 GALLOPING GUNS (12) B Llewellyn 4 11 2 .... Guy Lewis (3)
4 06-3424 MINNESOTA FATS (12) Miss M Rowland 4 11 2 ... Gary Lyons
5 50500-3 RE ROI (14) J Fox 4 11 2 .... T J Murphy
6 RISKY ROMEO G Bravery 4 11 2 .... R Dunwoody
7 01/262- ANABRANCH (105) J Jefferson 5 11 0 .... M Newton (7)
8 0- FLAIR LADY (219) W Turner 5 11 0 .... J Power (7)
9 CHIEF'S LADY J Bradley 4 10 11 .... R Johnson
– 9 declared –

BETTING: evens Anabranch, 7-2 Re Roi, 6-1 Risky Romeo, 8-1 Minnesota Fats, 10-1 Against The Clock, 14-1 Flair Lady, 20-1 others

BANGOR

HYPERION
2.25 Balmoral Princess 2.55 Exclusion 3.25 Micherado 3.55 Bourdonner 4.25 Tukano 5.00 Night Time

GOING: Good to Firm.
■ Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yds.
■ Course is 4m SE of Wrexham near junction of A525 and B5069. Bus service from Wrexham station. ADMISSION: Paddock £8; Course £4 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.

SIS RACING CHANNEL

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Recall To Mind (2.25), Batty's Island (3.55), Admiral's Guest (visored, 4.25).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Bourdonner (3.55) won at Worcester last Saturday.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Friendly Dreams (2.25) sent 170 miles from M Pipe's Nicholashayne stable in Devon.

2.25 EQE INTERNATIONAL HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 2m 1f

1 1 FRIENDLY DREAMS (15) (CD) M Pipe 10 12 ... D Bridgwater B
2 3 KILLMESSAN-TOWN (14) J Carr 10 10 .... F Leahy (3)
3 MILL HOUSE BOY B Rothwell 10 10 .... R Supple
4 0 RECALL TO MIND (14) M Sowersby 10 10 .... D Parker (3) B
5 SKRAM R Dickin 10 10 .... A Maguire
6 STILL HERE M Heaton-Ellis 10 10 .... N Williamson
7 3 BALMORAL PRINCESS (15) J Peacock 10 5 .... R Bellamy B
8 U SONG FOR JESS (IRE) (15) F Jordan 10 5 .... R Greene
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 11-10 Friendly Dreams, 7-2 Killmessan-Town, 5-1 others

2.55 PRESTATYN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 1f 110yds

1 1101/P-P SHERWOOD BOY (63) K Bailey 7 11 10 .... C Llewellyn
2 0264-03 EXCLUSION (30) J Hetherton 7 11 5 .... R Marley
3 0262/-P4 NORTHERN NATION (15) W Clay 8 11 2 .... A Maguire
4 4200-22 GREEN'S SEAGO (7) H Kavanagh 8 10 7 .... P Henley (5)
5 6550-06 DON TOCINO (12) J White 6 10 3 .... R Greene B
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Sherwood Boy, 11-4 Exclusion, 3-1 Northern Nation, 4-1 Green's Seago, 6-1 Don Tocino

3.25 CONSTRUCTION NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 52P1-23 MICHERADO (FR) (25) S Brookshaw 6 11 5 .... T Eley
2 111134/- ALQAIRAWAAN (456) C Mann 7 10 12 .... C Llewellyn
– 2 declared –

BETTING: 4-6 Alqairawaan, 11-10 Micherado

3.55 FUSILIERS AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f

1 334-236 GONE BY (IRE) (35) (CD) J Jenkins 8 11 10 Mr R Thornton B
2 620215- ROYAL CIRCUS (89) (C) (D) P Hiatt 7 10 12 ... Mr P Scott (7)
3 38U-060 BATTY'S ISLAND (15) (C) B Preece 7 10 11 Miss L Boswell (7) B
4 000-141 BOURDONNER (7) (D) M Hammond 4 10 6 ... Mr C Bonner (5)
– 4 declared –

BETTING: 5-4 Bourdonner, 5-2 Gone By, 3-1 Royal Circus, 5-1 Batty's Island

4.25 SERVICE STATIONS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f

1 0022-13 TUKANO (64) J Jenkins 5 11 5 .... G Bradley
2 0- MELLOW YELLOW (129) J Mackie 5 10 12 .... T Eley
3 0P ADMIRAL'S GUEST (15) W Clay 4 10 9 .... N Williamson V
4 P8404P/- FIRST BEE (500) F Jordan 5 10 7 .... R Supple
5 2-4 PROFIT AND LOSS (70) (BF) F Murphy 5 10 7 .... A Maguire
– 5 declared –

BETTING: Evens Tukano, 9-4 Profit And Loss, 5-1 Mellow Yellow, 8-1 First Bee, 12-1 Admiral's Guest

5.00 SHOWTIME NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 1f

1 2P-1233 NIGHT TIME (5) F Jordan 4 12 0 .... Mr G Shenkin (7)
2 48-3 COUNT OF FLANDERS (25) K Morgan 6 11 10 .... A S Smith
3 06/4/- TAWAFIJ (679) M Hammond 7 11 7 .... R Garritty
4 0/050-6 RARE PADDY (14) B Rothwell 7 10 6 .... R Supple V
5 3PP/0-PU MARKETING MAN (27) J White 6 10 1 .... R Greene
6 0PPP-4 RAVEN'S ROOST (7) G Jones 5 10 0 .... P McLoughlin
– 6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Raven's Roost 9st 9lb.
BETTING: 6-4 Count Of Flanders, 9-4 Night Time, 7-2 Tawafij, 10-1 Raven's Roost, 12-1 Marketing Man, Rare Paddy

GEOFFREY FREER STAKES – 10-YEAR-TALE

	1986	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
Fate of the favourites	1	2	6	2	4	3	3	3	1	1
Winner's place in betting	1	2	0	3	3	0	3	2co*	1	1
Starting prices	6-4	11-8	20-1	9-2	4-1	15-2	9-1	5-1	11-10	10-11

Profit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites -£3.48. Second Favourites -£5.63
Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last races 50%
Shortest-priced winner: Presenting 10-11 (1995)
Longest-priced winner: Top Class 20-1 (1988)
Top trainer: C Brittain – Top Class (1988), Charmer (1990), Shambo (1992)
Top jockeys: W Carson (2) – Bakharoff (1986), Azzilfi (1993); M Roberts (2) – Top Class (1988), Shambo (1992); L Dettori (2) – Charmer (1990), Drum Taps (1991)
*denotes second-co favourite

THE INDEPENDENT
RACING SERVICES
0891 261 +
LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS
NEWBURY 981
RIPON 982
STRATFORD 983
BANGOR 984
LINGFIELD (E) 985
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O'Gorman set to step out in style with Bolshoi

Racing

GREG WOOD

There are two places serious backers need to be in order to watch the most interesting races this weekend, since neither will be televised live. The first is their local betting shop, for the Great St Wilfrid Handicap at Ripon this afternoon, and the second is France, where Zamindar, the ante-post favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas, will face three rivals in the Prix Morny at Deauville tomorrow.

Both possibilities carry risks, of course, the former to the lungs and the latter to the wallet, so many will be forced to make do with three races from Newbury, including the Group Two Geoffrey Freer Stakes. This is a competitive event, but much of its appeal has been lost with the defection of last year's easy St Leger winner Classic Cliche and Dushyantor, the Derby runner-up and a contender for this year's renewal of the final Classic at Doncaster.

Only Samraan, who has been disappointing in Group company since winning the King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot, represents the three-year-old generation. Posidonas, Key To My Heart, Phantom Gold and Song Of Tara are all possible winners, and for betting purposes the race is best avoided. Those who cannot resist should side with Posidonas (3.00), who carries a Group One penalty but is at the peak of his form.

Nor are winners any easier to find in the two remaining televised events, the St Hugh's Stakes for two-year-old fillies and a 13-runner handicap. The St Hugh's is impenetrable, featuring nine useful but unexceptional runners whose rate of improvement is impossible to judge.

The Andover Rated Handicap, meanwhile, is a tightly-framed handicap, from which only one or two runners can be discounted. Betting at short odds makes no sense, and it could pay to take a chance on **Latching** (next best 2.00), who was a little unlucky last time out, at around 10-1.

It is a shame that the Great St Wilfrid Handicap at Ripon will not receive a wider audience, since it may offer yet another demonstration that Emma O'Gorman, who will ride Bolshoi, is a match for any of her male peers. Racing's deep-rooted chauvinism ensures that O'Gorman faces a constant struggle for outside rides, but her overall strike-rate of 20 per cent is inferior only to those of Pat Eddery, Lanfranco Dettori and Mick Kinane.

Bolshoi's fine run of form this summer coincides exactly with O'Gorman's arrival in his saddle. "He's my ideal sort of ride," the jockey says. "he's a bit of a thinker and you've got to outwit him a bit. Most jockeys hate riding horses like that, but I enjoy it. If you give him half a chance he'll drop himself out, but you can't bully him or he'll say: 'No thanks'. You've just got to sit and suffer a bit."

O'Gorman timed Bolshoi's run to perfection at Ascot last month, and though he has risen in the weights, his improvement this year has more than kept pace. **BOLSHOI** (nap 3.45) can win again this afternoon.

British yards supply three of **Zamindar**'s four opponents in the Prix Morny at Deauville, but André Fabre's colt, already 8-1 for next year's 2,000 Guineas, is unlikely to be defeated.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Mullitover
(Newbury 2.00)
NB: Lennox Lewis
(Ripon 3.45)

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

NEWBURY

2.00: Mullitover starts to show his best form at this time of year. Well-drawn, the six-year-old must be a danger. **SHAMANIC** has never won at this distance but shaped as if he now needs this trip when noted running on late in the six-furlong Stewards' Cup at Goodwood last time.

2.30: On her debut, **SUMMEROSA** was third of five runners in the Ascot maiden won by Mayfair. She faces more experienced opponents here but Robert Sangster, whose stud puts up the cash for this event, must have prospects of winning in his own money. Queen Sceptre appears to be the main threat.

3.00: Not a strong field for this event, though **Posidonas** must have a fine chance despite his Group One penalty. He holds **Phantom Gold** on recent form. **SONG OF TARA**, though, could prove the best bet now he is returned to a longer distance after performing over 10 furlongs in his two previous runs this year.

NEWBURY

HYPERION

2.00 Shamanic
2.30 Summerosa
3.00 Song Of Tara
3.30 Shil-Take
4.00 GOLDEN FACT (nap)
4.35 Silently
5.05 Sea-Deer (nb)

GOING: Good. **STALLS:** Round course – inside; Straight course – stands' side.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers may be best for 5f to 1m on straight course.
■ Left-hand course, south-east of town near A34. Railway station (service from London, Paddington) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Members £15; Tattersalls £10; Silver Ring £3 (OAPs half price). **CAR PARK:** Free.

SIS

■ **LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: P Chapple-Hyam** – 38 winners from 148 runners gives a success ratio of 25.7% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £7.03; **R Hannon** – 34 winners, 461 runners, 7.5% -£209.00; **J Gosden** – 32 winners, 129 runners, 24.8%, +£71.34; **P Cole** – 22 winners, 189 runners, 11.6% +£24.21.
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS: J Reid** – 52 wins, 283 rides, 18.4%, -£2.90; **Pat Eddery** – 44 wins, 268 rides, 16.4%, -£39.07; **L Dettori** – 38 wins, 210 rides, 18.1%, +£40.00, **W Carson** – 34 wins, 228 rides, 14.9%, -£71.57.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Classic Mystery (4.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Neuwest (2.00) won at Lingfield on Saturday, Snap Crackle Pop (2.30) won at Haydock on Saturday, Soden (4.00) won at Redcar on Saturday. **LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS:** Key To My Heart (3.00) sent 237 miles by Miss S Hall from Coverham, N Yorks; Olympic Spirit (2.30) and Selhurstpark Flyer (5.05) sent 223 miles by J Berry from Cockerham, Lancs.

2.00 ANDOVER RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,150 added 7f 64yds (Round) BBC1

1 000402 KAYVEE (15) (D) (J H Richmond-Watson) G Harwood 7 9 7 ... A Clark 10
2 60-1214 COOL EDGE (82) (D) (BF) (Henry B H Chan) M Tompkins 5 9 6 ... P Robinson 6
3 22-0342 LAAFEE (27) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 3 9 3 ... R Hills 7
4 362425 BAND ON THE RUN (16) (D) (D J Allen) B McMahon 9 9 3 ... G Carter 12
5 60-1510 TREGARON (USA) (15) (D Hefin Jones) R Akehurst 5 8 13 ... T Quinn 9
6 4151-36 MULLITOVER (16) (D) (Mrs D B Mulley) M Heaton-Ellis 6 8 11 ... S Drowne 4
7 004300 SHAMANIC (14) (Robert Russell) R Hannon 4 8 10 ... Dane O'Neill (3) 8
8 005000 AKIL (37) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 4 8 9 ... W Carson 2
9 22150-0 RODERICK HUDSON (108) (CD) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 4 8 9 ... S Sanders 1
10 321021 NEUWEST (USA) (7) (D) (Paul Green) N Walker 4 8 9 ... J Stack 3
11 010002 LATCHING (19) (R F Johnson Houghton) R Johnson Houghton 4 8 9 ... J Reid 5
12 621453 KNOBBLEENEEZE (7) (CD) (Anthony Andrews) M Channon 8 8 7 ... L Dettori 13 V
13 1-00300 CARICATURE (15) (White Bear Limited) G Lewis 3 8 4 ... Pat Eddery 11 B
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Tregaron, 9-2 Mullitover, 7-1 Cool Edge, 9-1 Akil, Neuwest, 10-1 Kayvee, Latching, 11-1 Band On The Run, Laafee, 14-1 Shamanic, 18-1 Caricature, 25-1 others.
1995: Gymcrak Premiere 7 8 7 K Fallon 10-1 (G Holmes) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

MULLITOVER comes here fresh, as he was having only his second outing this term when a three-length sixth of 18 behind Moscow Mist in Goodwood's Golden Mile. Before that, Michael Heaton-Ellis's six-year-old ran third of 16 to Crumpton Hill and Rabican in the Bunbury Cup at Newmarket, beaten half a length and the same. He should confirm form with Neuwest (Lingfield winner since but marginally worse off) and Akil, who finished eighth and 14th at Newmarket while he should also have the measure of Tregaron (only 15th at the Sussex track). Tregaron failed to produce his best at Goodwood and would be a major threat if back to his best – he won a 31-runner race at Ascot in May on his reappearance and first race from Reg Akehurst's yard and he scored with ease at Salisbury the time before last. Cool Edge is as consistent as they come. Successful in the 21-runner William Hill Spring Mile at Doncaster on his return and at Haydock in May – Band On The Run third and held – Mark Tompkins's runner was four lengths clear of the third wehen a two-length second of 20 to Royal Philosopher in the Spring Cup over a mile here in between. Cool Edge ran his usual honest race when fourth to Blomberg at Sandown in May and will do so again today although without a race since. Kayvee ran Law Commission to a neck at Ascot a couple of weeks ago but seems to reserve his best for that track and hasn't been successful for more than a year.
Selection: MULLITOVER

2.30 SWETTENHAM STUD ST HUGH'S STAKES (CLASS A) £14,000 added 2YO fillies 5f 34yds BBC1

1 315 FANNY'S CHOICE (28) (N Ahamad) R Hannon 8 11 ... Pat Eddery 5
2 5131 HEAD OVER HEELS (15) (D) (Ms Rachel D S Hood) J Gosden 8 11 ... L Dettori 6
3 31315 OLYMPIC SPIRIT (15) (D) (William Hill Organization Ltd) J Berry 8 11 ... G Carter 3
4 124 QUEEN SCEPTRE (21) (D) (Sceptre Racing) B Hills 8 11 ... M Hills 1
5 102133 BRIDE'S REPRISAL (8) (D) (Mrs Jean Keegan) M Channon 8 8 ... T Quinn 9
6 13 SILVER PURSE (28) (POWTC Ltd Speedy Snaps) A Jones 8 8 ... T Sprake 7
7 021 SNAP CRACKLE POP (7) (D) (J Short K Wills/D Horn) R J Houghton 8 8 ... Pat Eddery 4
8 3 SUMMEROSA (USA) (22) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 8 ... J Reid 8
9 251340 WHIZZ KID (15) (D) (J J Bridger) J Bridger 8 8 ... J Quinn 2
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Bride's Reprisal, 4-1 Queen Sceptre, 9-2 Fanny's Choice, 5-1 Olympic Spirit, 11-2 Head Over Heels, 6-1 Summerosa, 8-1 Silver Purse, 12-1 others.
1995: Amazing Bay 2 8 11 W Ryan 11-4 (I Balding) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

BRIDE'S REPRISAL finished a length and a quarter adrift of Young Bigwig when third to him at levels in a Goodwood nursery and Head Over Heels was the same margin behind Young Bigwig (gave 4lb) when they were second and third to Miss Stamper in the Super Sprint here four weeks ago, so the selection would appear to have a bit in hand of John Gosden's runner getting 3lb. Head Over Heels might have improved since – she went on to land the odds in good style at Yarmouth while Bride's Reprisal may have been unlucky last time and she held every chance when she hung left and the bit slipped though her mouth when third to Indian Rocket at Haydock. Olympic Spirit struck form at Warwick in June on her second outing and her all-the-way Chester win the following month was sandwiched between a third to Dazzle in the Windsor Castle at Royal Ascot and fifth to Carmine Lake in the Molecomb at Goodwood, where she might have finished third except for being hampered. Peter Chapple-Hyam must hold Summerosa in high regard to be running her here rather than in a maiden and she is bound to progress as a result of last month's debut third to Maylar at Ascot, where she was easy to back.
Selection: BRIDE'S REPRISAL

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GEOFFREY FREER STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 2) £50,000 added 1m 5f 61yds BBC1

RATINGS
1 15-3312 POSIDONAS (20) (C) (Athos Christodoulou) P Cole 4 9 9 ... T Quinn 4 125
2 20-1215 KEY TO MY HEART (7) (Mrs Maureen Pickering) Miss S Hall 6 9 3 ... R Hughes 3 119
3 01-0525 PHANTOM GOLD (20) (C) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 4 9 3 ... L Dettori 5 119
4 114-33 SONG OF TARA (21) (Dr A J F O'Reilly) P Chapple-Hyam 4 9 3 ... J Reid 7 117
5 34-2060 WAYNE COUNTY (39) (C) (Mrs A Naughton) R Akehurst 6 9 3 ... S Sanders 2 118
6 014330- WHITECHAPEL (USA) (287) (CD) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 8 9 3 ... T Ives 1 118
7 131146 SAMRAAN (USA) (16) (C) (K M Al-Mudhaf) J Dunlop 3 8 6 ... M Hills 6 110
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Posidonas, 7-2 Phantom Gold, 4-1 Key To My Heart, 9-2 Song of Tara, 6-1 Samraan, 8-1 Wayne County, 50-1 Whitechapel.
1995: Presenting 3 8 5 J Reid 10-11 (J Gosden) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

POSIDONAS ran too freely when a 13-length third to Election Day on his reappearance in the Aston Park Stakes over course and distance in May but ran much better when similarly placed behind Oscar Schindler and Annus Mirabilis in the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot. Posidonas reversed the form with the last named in no uncertain fashion when taking the Princess of Wales's Stakes by a length and a quarter from Singspiel at Newmarket (1m4f). Posidonas went under by the minimum margin to Hollywood Dream at Dusseldorf (1m4f) last time and on that effort has nothing to fear from the Queen's **Phantom Gold**, who finished a six-length fifth (of seven). **Whitechapel** should ensure there is a strong pace. **Song Of Tara** ran a cracker when third to Pilsudski in the Group Three Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown in May – and took the minor placing behind Idris in the Meld Stakes at the Curragh last time. Peter Chapple-Hyam's four-year-old, with little mileage on the clock, is open to improvement. **Key To My Heart**, after a 19-month lay-off, went in at York in May and won the Old Newton Cup at Haydock last month while he was not discredited in finishing fifth to Tamayaz in a Group Three event at Haydock a week ago. **Samraan**, the only three-year-old in the field, was scoring for the third time this term when defeating Private Song half a length in the 20-runner King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot but he has been found wanting in two starts against better company since.
Selection: POSIDONAS

3.30 EDDIE KING 60TH BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 7f (Straight)

1 0 AL MASROOR (USA) (24) (A: Muslim Partnership) J Fanning 9 0 ... B Thomson 2
2 BEAUCHAMP LION (E Penser) J Dunlop 9 0 ... G Carter 7
3 BROWBEAT (The Queen) R Charlton 9 0 ... S Sanders 3
4 DICK TURPIN (USA) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 9 0 ... L Dettori 17
5 00 ELLENS LAD (19) (Mrs Chris Harrington) R Hannon 9 0 ... Pat Eddery 5
6 FALLAH (Hamdan Al Maktoum) Major W R Hern 9 0 ... R Hills 4
7 HAYDN JAMES (USA) (Thanet Leasing Limited) P Harris 9 0 ... G Hind 8
8 0 HOMESTEAD (21) (Geoffrey C Greenwood) R Hannon 9 0 ... Dane O'Neill (3) 6
9 INVERMARK (Sir David Wills) J Fanshawe 9 0 ... N Day 15
10 MARDI GRAS (Derek Cowsom) J Dunlop 9 0 ... S Whitworth 12
11 3 MITHAK (USA) (49) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hills 9 0 ... W Carson 14
12 3 MONZA (USA) (22) (BF) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9 0 ... J Reid 10
13 0 MYOSOTIS (14) (Jeremy Fox & Carolyn Jennings) P Makin 9 0 ... W Ryan 18
14 2 SHIL-TAKE (21) (Cleo Batt) R Akehurst 9 0 ... T Quinn 13
15 SIR RICKY (USA) (Wafic Said) R Charlton 9 0 ... T Sprake 1
16 TANGO KING (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 9 0 ... P Robinson 11
17 CLEAR THE AIR (W H Ponsonby) P Cole 8 9 ... J Bosley (7) 9
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Shil-Take, 11-2 Mithak, 6-1 Monza, 9-1 Beauchamp Lion, 10-1 Sir Ricky, 11-1 Tango King, 12-1 Mardi Gras, 14-1 Clear The Air, 16-1 others.
1995: Silver Prey (USA) 2 9 0 W R Swinburn 4-1 (E Dunlop) 22 ran

4.00 LEVY BOARD NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,200 added 2YO 7f 64yds (Round)

1 2105 RAVEN MASTER (USA) (41) (C) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9 7 ... L Dettori 6
2 532331 MISTER PINK (8) (D) (C W Sarreau) R Johnson Houghton 9 1 ... J Reid 7
3 2445 GOLDEN FACT (USA) (14) (BF) (George E K Teo) R Hannon 8 13 ... Dane O'Neill (3) 11
4 61 GOODWOOD LASS (24) (D) (Goodwood Racehorse Owners) J Dunlop 8 13 ... W Carson 1
5 651 SHEER FACE (10) (D) (A J de V Patrick) W Muir 8 10 ... Pat Eddery 10
6 0301 SODEN (7) (D) (Albert Soden Ltd) T Mills 8 9 ... R Hills 9
7 411160 STRIDE (7) (D) (Ladywood Racing Club) Martyn Meade 8 7 ... W Ryan 8
8 50014 SUN O'TIROL (14) (D) (Mrs Annette Barwick) M Channon 8 4 ... Paul Eddery 2
9 130 SMART BOY (22) (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah) P Cole 8 4 ... Doubtful 4
10 021 DOUBLE GOLD (28) (D) (Michael Edwards) B Meehan 8 2 ... Martin Dwyer (5) 5
11 0040 CLASSIC MYSTERY (8) (Gary Catchpole) B Meehan 7 13 ... B Doyle 3 B
12 624 RISCATTO (USA) (42) (BF) (F Hope) W Muir 7 10 ... J Quinn 12
– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Riscatto 7st 7lb.
BETTING: 11-2 Raven Master, 6-1 Goodwood Lass, 13-2 Golden Fact, 7-1 Mister Pink, 8-1 Sheer Face, 8-1 Double Gold, 12-1 Sun O'Tirol, 14-1 Riscatto, 16-1 others.
1995: Pacific Grove 2 8 2 D Biggs 14-1 (P Cole) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

GOODWOOD LASS, unplaced against Falkenham on her debut at Goodwood in May, showed the benefit of that experience when making all at Leicester last month. There is better still to come from John Dunlop's filly and she can go in again though there are several dangers – not the least of them being **Raven Master**. Peter Chapple-Hyam's charge won over the minimum here in May – **Golden Fact** a four-length fourth and 6lb better – and stumbled at the start when unplaced in the Norfolk at Royal Ascot. He beat only one home at the San Siro last time but that was in Group Three company. Golden Fact ran below expectations when fifth to Double Park at Goodwood a fortnight ago but didn't get the best of runs and was found to have lost a shoe. However, Pat Eddery was on Golden Fact at the Sussex track and teams up with **Sheer Face** today, and this Brighton winner, the type who can progress further, could go close. **Mister Pink**, who got off the mark with a decisive victory at HQ, and Warwick winner **Double Gold** also have claims.
Selection: GOODWOOD LASS

4.35 TRIUMVIRATE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m 4f 5yds Penalty Value £6,227

1 226250 SILENTLY (14) (Paul Mellon) I Balding 4 9 5 ... Pat Eddery 2
2 350-002 WILLIE CONQUER (14) (Raymond Tooth) R Akehurst 4 9 5 ... Paul Eddery 4
3 224124 EAGLE CANYON (21) (D) (Clinton W Lone Inc) B Hanbury 3 8 13 ... W Ryan 3
4 05210 NIZU (38) (Sheikh Mohammed) B Hills 3 8 11 ... M Hills 1
5 066133 VILLAGE KING (23) (D) (BF) (N Ahamad) R Hannon 3 8 11 ... Dane O'Neill (3) 5
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Willie Conquer, 100-30 Eagle Canyon, 7-2 Village King, 9-2 Nizu, 7-1 Silently.
1995: no corresponding race

5.05 STRATTON HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,650 added to stakes 5f 34yds

1 030810 TWICE AS SHARP (36) (D) (BF) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 4 10 0 ... G Hind 1
2 2030-00 NO EXTRAS (17) (D) (BF) (K Higson) G L Moore 6 9 12 ... S Whitworth 5
3 131020 SELHURSTPARK FLYER (14) (D) (Chris Deuters) J Berry 5 9 11 ... P Roberts (5) 4
4 263103 SEA-DEER (7) (CD) (Racing Matters Ltd) C Dwyer 7 9 10 ... L Dettori 9
5 215205 LAGO DI VARANO (7) (D) (The PBT Group) R Whitaker 4 9 9 ... R Hills 3 B
6 013100 LORD HIGH ADMIRAL (CAN) (7) (D) (Elite Racing Club) M Heaton-Ellis 8 9 9 ... J Reid 8
7 1-02140 BAJAN ROSE (52) (D) (C Mcnerin) M Blanshard 4 9 6 ... J Quinn 6
8 00-0400 CROFTERS CEILIDH (22) (D) (Mrs Mary Meddings) B McMahon 4 9 3 ... G Carter 10
9 11032-0 PORTELET (94) (D) (Matthews Breeding and Racing) R Guest 4 8 13 ... Dane O'Neill (3) 7
10 -0-3606 GLORIOUS ARAGON (84) (Lord Leverhulme) R Johnson Houghton 4 8 13 ... T Quinn 2
11 402506 TART AND A HALF (8) (D) (P F Boggis) B Meehan 4 8 10 ... M Tebbutt 12 B
12 01-260 BEAU VENTURE (USA) (9) (D) (Mrs A L Stacey) B Paling 8 8 7 ... T Sprake 11
13 154100 CHADWELL HALL (7) (D) (D H Bowring) S Bowring 5 8 5 ... S D Williams 13 B
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Sea-Deer, 6-1 Lago di Varano, 7-1 Glorious Aragon, 15-2 Bajan Rose, 8-1 Tart And A Half, Selhurstpark Flyer, 10-1 Twice As Sharp, 12-1 Chadwell Hall, 14-1 others.
1995: Master Of Passion 6 9 3 J Tate 5-1 (J Eustace) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

SEA-DEER looked as good as ever on his 20th appearance of the season when third of 20 to Royal Dome on Haydock's Coral Handicap a week ago, finishing with a flourish after being denied a clear run. He was winning for the fifth time this term when a neck too good for Gabne at HQ three weeks ago. He can confirm Haydock form with **Lago Di Varano** (around two lengths back in fifth and 3lb better), **Chadwell Hall** (10th), and **Lord High Admiral** (12th). **Twice As Sharp** – disappointing last time but successful at Newcastle before that with Lord High Admiral beaten little more than a length in third and 3lb better – could pose a threat despite her 10st. **Beau Venture**, who made all for an impressive Bath victory in June, is 6lb better with Lord High Admiral than when beaten two and a half lengths by him at Sandown last month and there might not be much between the pair this time. **Portelet** boasted some useful form in 1995, winning twice and running many other good races including a second to Elle Shaped at Doncaster in November when **Selhurstpark Flyer** and Beau Venture finished in arrears. But he hasn't raced since an unplaced run behind Fairy Wind at York in May – Twice As Sharp close-up in third and Lago Di Varano 11th.
Selection: SEA-DEER

DEAUVILLE TOMORROW

2.05 PRIX MORNY PIAGET (Group 1) 2YO colts & fillies 6f Penalty value £105,402

1 11 ZAMINDAR (K Abdullah) A Fabre 2 9-0 ... O Peslier 5
2 S16 BLUE RIDGE (S Al Homeizi) R Hannon (GB) 2 9-0 ... R Hughes 1
3 21 BAHAMIAN BOUNTY (Lucayan Stud) D Loder (GB) 2 9-0 ... L Dettori 2
4 011 RICH GROUND (Mrs J Vickers) J Bethell (GB) 2 9-0 ... Paul Eddery 3
5 1 PAS DE REPONSE (Wertheimer Brothers) Mme C Head 2 8-11 ... F Head 4

BETTING FORECAST: 2-5 Zamindar, 11-4 Pas De Reponse, 7-2 Bahamian Bounty, 16-1 Rich Ground, 25-1 Blue Ridge

RACING RESULTS

NEWBURY

2.10: 1. **CATECHISM** (L Dettori) 8-1; 2. **Nopalea** 33-1; 3. **Elegant Warning** 6-4 fav. 19 ran. ½, nk. (J Gosden, Newmarket). Tote: £7.10; £2.30, £9.30, £1.40. DF: £86.80. CSF: £218.26. Trio: £87.00.
2.40: 1. **GREENSTEAD** (L Dettori) 15-2; 2. **Brandon Magic** 20-1; 3. **Yalta** 3-1 fav. 15 ran. 3½, ¾. (J Gosden, Newmarket). Tote: £10.70; £3.40, £5.20, £1.70. DF: £96.40. CSF: £129.40. Tricast: £501.16. Trio: £252.50. NR: Knscliffe.
3.10: 1. **STATE FAIR** (M Hills) 4-7 fav; 2. **In Question** 12-1; 3. **Davoski** 25-1. 5 ran. 1¼, ¾. (B Hills, Lambourn). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.70. DF: £4.00. CSF: £6.34.
3.40: 1. **BIN ROSIE** (L Dettori) 9-2; 2. **Mistle Cat** 6-1; 3. **Magellan** 25-1. 8 ran. 4-1 fav Hammerstein (5th). 1¾, hd. (D Loder, Newmarket). Tote: £5.70; £1.70, £1.90, £4.00. DF: £13.60. CSF: £28.17.
4.10: 1. **HERON ISLAND** (J Reid) 11-2; 2. **Mirds Music** 6-4 fav; 3. **Taufan's Melody** 5-2. 8 ran. 1¼, nk. (P Chapple-Hyam, Marlton). Tote: £6.50; £2.20, £1.50. DF: £4.80. CSF: £13.46.
4.40: 1. **EN VACANCES** (T Sprake) 7-1; 2. **Izza** 4-1 jt fav; 3. **Salaman** 13-2. 9 ran. 4-1 jt-fav Shirley Sue (4th). 1, hd. (A Foster, Lambourn). Tote: £7.70; £1.60, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £18.70. CSF: £33.14. Tricast: £175.37. Trio: £46.00.
5.10: 1. **PATSY GRIMES** (P P Murphy) 9-1; 2. **Faraway Lass** 5-1; 3. **Rambold** 6-1. 9 ran. 9-4 fav Highland Rhapsody (4th). ½, 1¼. (J Moore, Andover). Tote: £10.30; £2.50, £1.70, £2.10. DF: £22.70. CSF: £53.16. Tricast: £276.70. Trio: £50.40.
Jackpot: £106,444.40; £119,937.39 carried forward to Newbury today.
Placepot: £53.50. **Quadpot:** £15.40.
Place 6: £39.15. **Place 5:** £23.42.

FOLKESTONE

2.00: 1. **STYGIAN** (J D Smith) 10-11 fav; 2. **Batsman** 14-1; 3. **Mangus** 9-2. 6 ran. 1½, 1½. (B Hills, Lambourn). Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £2.80. DF: £20.40. CSF £13.08.
2.30: 1. **SPARKLING EDGE** (G Hind) 16-1; 2. **La Shuttle** 5-1; 3. **Hoh Surprise** 100-30. 11 ran. 11-4 fav Retoto. 1¼, ½. (A Jones, Eastbury). Tote: £35.20; £8.00, £2.10, £1.80. DF: £155.50. CSF £97.44. Trio: £83.60.
3.00: 1. **NEVER THINK TWICE** (C Scally) 5-1; 2. **Scissor Ridge** 3-1 fav; 3. **Fairy Prince** 5-1. 10 ran. 2½, 2. (K Ivory, Radlett). Tote: £6.70; £1.90, £1.60, £1.70. DF: £8.80. CSF: £22.62. Tricast: £80.43. Trio: £16.10.
3.30: 1. **RISING SPRAY** (Paul Eddery) 11-2; 2. **Dauphin** 20-1; 3. **Dashing Invader** 13-2. 11 ran. 3-1 fav Parrot's Hill. 3, 3½. (C Horgan, Wokingham). Tote: £5.80; £2.50, £7.10, £2.00. DF: £51.60. CSF: £100.57. Tricast: £690.67. NR: La Belle Shyanne. Trio: £143.80; £162.08 c/f to Ripon 3.45 today.
4.00: 1. **UTMOST ZEAL** (G Hind) 14-1; 2. **Whatever's Right** 13-8 fav; 3. **Secret Pleasure** 5-1. 11 ran. 5, 1¼. (P Harris, Berkhamsted). Tote: £23.80; £3.40, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £43.20. CSF: £38.39. Tricast: £134.45. Trio: £109.80. NR: Racing Telegraph, The Grey Weaver.
4.30: 1. **SAWA-ID** (Paul Eddery) 11-4; 2. **Veridian** 6-1; 3. **Damarita** 4-1. 9 ran. 2-1 fav Jean Pierre. 1½, 2½. (J Gosden, Newmarket). Tote: £4.50; £1.90, £2.10, £2.10. DF: £16.20. CSF: £19.75. Tricast: £58.35. Trio: £15.80.
Placepot: £75.60. **Quadpot:** £15.20.
Place 6: £65.74. **Place 5:** £42.24.

SOUTHWELL

2.20: 1. **GLOW FORUM** (F Lynch) 6-4 fav; 2. **Tabriz** 14-1; 3. **Tirolette** 12-1. 10 ran. 9, 6. (L Montague Hall). Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £3.30, £2.20. DF: £33.70. CSF: £22.96. Tricast: £187.49. Trio: £48.80.
2.50: 1. **BERGE** (Emma O'Gorman) 13-8 fav; 2. **Prima Silk** 8-1; 3. **Tame Deer** 33-1. 13 ran. 1¾, nk. (W O'Gorman). Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £2.70, £3.50. DF: £8.20. CSF: £15.46. Trio: £89.60. NR: Seeking Destiny.
3.20: 1. **DELROB** (F Norton) 9-1; 2. **Disco Boy** 12-1; 3. **Rainthepost** 25-1; 4. **Napier Star** 9-1. 16 ran. 4-1 fav Alpaz. 1¼, 1. (D Haydn Jones). Tote: £12.20; £2.50, £4.50, £4.60, £2.90. DF: £178.60. CSF: £116.39. Tricast: £2,544.25. Trio: Not won; £463.29 carried forward to Ripon 3.45 today.
3.50: 1. **PC'S CRUISER** (T Williams) 8-1; 2. **Theatre Magic** 12-1; 3. **Catherine's Choice** 12-1; 4. **Giftbox** 13-2. 16 ran. 7-2 fav Young Annabel. 2½, 2½. (J Eyre). Tote: £12.10; £2.60, £3.40, £5.10, £2.30. DF: £106.00. CSF: £108.15. Tricast: £1,144.47. Trio: £164.10; £115.63 c/f to Ripon 3.45 today.
4.20: 1. **ASSUMPTA** (M Birch) 9-2; 2. **Just Loui** 11-1; 3. **Make Ready** 11-2. 12 ran. 100-30 fav Red Test. ¾, 2½. (C Booth). Tote: £5.40; £2.00, £3.10, £2.00. DF: £33.20. CSF: £51.11. Trio: £62.20.
4.50: 1. **LOVE AND KISSES** (Mr R Thornton) 6-1; 2. **Precedency** 6-1; 3. **Ion At The Top** 7-1. 10 ran. 7-2 fav Star Performer (4th). 3, sh hd. (C Cyzer). Tote: £3.70; £2.00, £2.60, £2.30. DF: £13.80. CSF: £41.53. Tricast: £243.39. Trio: £15.30.
Placepot: £355.10. **Quadpot:** £370.80.
Place 6: £350.56. **Place 5:** £163.86.

Evening results, page 23

RIPON

HYPERION

2.15 Yuppy Girl 2.45 Just Visiting 3.15 Wafir 3.45 Bolshoi 4.15 Lunch Party 4.50 Merrily

GOING: Good (watering as necessary).
STALLS: Straight – stands' side; round course – inside, except 1m 4f – outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
■ Right-hand course. A sharp track with tight bends.
■ Racecourse is east of the city on B6265. **ADMISSION:** Club £12; Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring £4; Course £2 (accompanied under-16s free all enclosures). **CAR PARK:** Car and up to four occupants in course enclosure £8; remainder free.

SIS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bold Future (2.15), Browndale's Promise (2.15), La Fandango (2.15), Lagan (2.15), Swynford Supreme (2.15), River Terra (visored, 4.50).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Caspian Morn (2.45) won at Lingfield last Saturday; Clued Up (2.15) won at Redcar last Saturday.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Samwar (3.45) sent 286 miles from Miss Gay Kelleway's Whitcombe stable in Dorset.

2.15 HARROGATE SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 2f

1 530 SWYNFORD SUPREME (12) J Bottomley 9 7 ... J Lowe 3 B
2 052525 LILA PEDIGO (IRE) (10) Miss J Craze 9 5 ... N Connorton 6
3 435002 YUPPY GIRL (IRE) (22) Capt J Wilson 9 2 ... J Fortune 1
4 240020 SHE'S SIMPLY GREAT (IRE) (29) J J O'Neill 9 2 ... K Fallon 19
5 009006 TIROLS TYRANT (IRE) (7) Mrs A Swinbank 8 12 ... J Weaver 15
6 404560 RICHARD HOUSE LAD (4) R Hollinshead 8 10 ... F Lynch (3) 8
7 40-0651 CLUED UP (7) (D) P Evans 8 9 ... J F Egan 4
8 4050 LEBEDINSKI (IRE) (22) Mrs P Sly 8 7 ... A Culhane 17
9 331333 RAGTIME COWGIRL (10) C Thornton 8 5 ... Dean McKeown 5
10 000000 LAGAN (10) P Felgate 8 5 ... K Darley 18 B
11 00-0060 LA FANDANGO (15) M W Easterby 8 4 ... S Parkin (5) 14 B
12 50-05 NEEDWOOD FANTASY (47) B Morgan 8 3 ... L Charnock 10
13 404-0 THE BLACK DUBH (IRE) (24) J Quinn 8 3 ... Dale Gibson 12
14 000-0 BOLD FUTURE (IRE) (79) J W Watts 8 3 ... J Carroll 9 B
15 000-06 SHEPHERDS DEAN (IRE) (8) P Haslam 7 12 ... T Williams 7
16 650000 ERIPETTE (7) N Bycroft 7 10 ... G Bardwell 13
17 0000 BROWNIE'S PROMISE (31) M Brittain 7 10 ... N Carlisle 2 B
18 06550 PHILGEM (7) C Fairhurst 7 10 ... N Kennedy 16
19 00-0000 TOTALLY DIFFERENT (9) G Oldroyd 7 10 ... N Varley (3) 11 V
– 19 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Philgem 7st 7lb, Totally Different 7st.
BETTING: 3-1 Clued Up, 7-2 Lila Pedigo, 4-1 Yuppy Girl, 9-2 Tirols Tyrant, 8-1 Richard House Lad, Eripette, Philgem, 12-1 others

2.45 KNARESBOROUGH STAKES (CLASS D) £4,750 added 2YO 6f

1 332541 MUJOVA (IRE) (21) (D) R Hollinshead 9 3 ... F Lynch (3) 7
2 1 MUNKIGH (14) (D) T Thomson Jones 9 3 ... K Darley 6
3 23210 BOLLERO (IRE) (8) (D) J Berry 8 12 ... J Carroll 2
4 0 BOLLIN TERRY (17) T Easterby 8 11 ... M Birch 1
5 31 CASPIAN MORN (7) (D) A Jarvis 8 10 ... W J O'Connor 3
6 1232 JUST VISITING (14) Capt J Wilson 8 10 ... K Fallon 4
7 -03 BEWITCHING LADY (13) D Arbuthnot 8 6 ... R Cochrane 5
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Just Visiting, 3-1 Munkigh, 4-1 Mujova, 9-2 Bewitching Lady, 5-1 Caspian Morn, 10-1 Bollero, 50-1 Bollin Terry

3.15 BILLY NEVETT MEMORIAL CUP HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 4f 60yds

1 643004 WAFIR (IRE) (21) (D) P Calver 4 10 0 ... J Carroll 8
2 000105 SOBA UP (19) (D) (BF) T Etherington 6 9 6 ... R Cochrane 9
3 63-003 SOUTH SEA BUBBLE (IRE) (26) L Cumani 4 9 0 ... K Darley 3
4 3210-60 SUGAR MILL (28) Mrs M Reveley 6 8 12 ... A Culhane 4
5 251601 EXACTLY (IRE) (13) (CD) J L Eyre 3 8 10 ... T Williams 7
6 1050-32 MASTER HYDE (12) (D) (BF) W Storey 7 8 6 ... N Varley (3) 2
7 34300-3 CUMBRIAN RHAPSODY (12) (D) T Easterby 6 8 6 ... M Birch 6
8 130361 ORDAINED (8) E Alston 3 7 10 ... J Lowe 10
9 653003 CHAMPAGNE N DREAMS (14) D Nicholls 4 7 10 ... J Bramhill (7) 5
10 00-6001 COURSE FISHING (12) (CD) B McMahon 5 7 10 6 ... G Bardwell 1
– 10 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Ordained 7st 8lb, Champagne N dreams 7st 6lb, Course Fishing 7st 6lb.
BETTING: 4-1 Exactly, 9-2 Course Fishing, 5-1 South Sea Bubble, Master Hyde, 6-1 Ordained, 13-2 Champagne N Dreams, 7-1 Cumbrian Rhapsody, 8-1 others

3.45 WILLIAM HILL GREAT ST WILFRID HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 6f

1 430240 DOUBLE BLUE (13) (CD) M Johnston 7 10 0 ... J Weaver 16
2 541014 BOLSHOI (IRE) (14) J Berry 4 9 4 ... Emma O'Gorman 9 B
3 031442 HIGHBORN (IRE) (35) (D) P Feilgate 7 9 4 ... K Darley 12
4 145003 OPTIONS OPEN (7) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 4 9 2 ... K Fallon 3
5 524043 ZIGGY'S DANCER (USA) (12) (D) E Alston 5 8 13 ... J Lowe 17
6 400185 SAILORMAITE (7) (D) S Bowring 5 8 13 ... Dean McKeown 15
7 00-3004 PERRYSTON VIEW (12) (D) P Calver 4 8 13 ... J Carroll 6 V
8 422311 BOLLIN JOANNE (12) (CD) T Easterby 3 8 13 ... M Birch 10
9 010030 FOR THE PRESENT (14) (CD) T Barron 6 8 12 ... J Fortune 13
10 005000 LENNOX LEWIS (14) (C) (D) A Jarvis 4 8 10 ... W J O'Connor 1
11 461-604 SAMWAR (35) Miss Gay Kelleway 4 8 8 ... R Cochrane 2
12 511622 FIRST MAITE (115) (D) S Bowring 2 8 2 ... Dale Gibson 11 B
13 4-0-002 THE SCYTHIAN (10) (CD) Bob Jones 4 8 1 ... J Fanning 5
14 600603 FANTASY RACING (IRE) (7) (D) M Channon 4 8 1 ... J F Egan 7
15 002114 ROBELLION (10) (D) (BF) D Arbuthnot 5 7 12 ... D O'Shea 4 V
16 411054 DAWNE (7) (D) (BF) Mrs V Aconley 5 7 10 ... N Carlisle 8 V
17 526013 MAID O'CANNIE (30) (D) M W Easterby 5 7 10 ... N Varley (3) 14 B
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 13-2 Bollin Joanne, Perryston View, 7-1 Bolshoi, 8-1 Samwar, 10-1 Highborn, Options Open, The Scythian, 12 Lennox Lewis, 14 others

FORM GUIDE

THE SCYTHIAN has his winning partner Joe Fanning aboard and goes from a favourable draw (five). His run at Hampton 10 days ago was his first for two months and that short-head second under 10st to Croeso Cynnes was hard to fault. That was over the minimum trip and he is back to his best trip and running off the same mark as when third to Cheyenne Spirit at Haydock 13 months ago. **Bollin Joanne**, who won here 12 days ago can improve again to confirm placings with **Ziggy's Dancer** and **Perryston View**. **Samwar** was a fine fifth to Yeast in the Victoria Cup. Hopelessly drawn at Chester next time, Samwar showed up well when fourth to Double Splendour at York (6f) and makes appeal from stall two. **Bolshoi** is improving and goes well for Emma O'Gorman. He reversed Newmarket form with Tedburrow when swooping to beat Sylva Paradise at Ascot and had Sylva Paradise well behind him when fourth in the Stewards' Cup. Bolshoi is 8lb higher today, but that was a cracking effort behind horses who dominated the race on the far side of the course. **For The Present** never showed from a low draw at Goodwood (stablemate Coastal Bluff won the race) but has a real chance on his previous third to Laurel Delight over a wrong trip (5f) at Newcastle. Bolshoi has improved recently, but For The Present beat him three lengths at Redcar in June and meets him on 13lb better terms. **Double Blue** beat **Lennox Lewis** over two lengths in this last year, but Lennox Lewis, nicely placed in stall one today, should reverse that form with a 13lb pull.
Selection: THE SCYTHIAN

4.15 ROTHMANS SERIES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m 1f

1 231220 SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY (21) (D) T Easterby 5 10 0 ... M Birch 15
2 104006 NINIA (USA) (7) (C) M Johnston 4 9 10 ... J Weaver 3
3 600005 RON'S SECRET (17) (D) J Payne 4 8 5 ... R Cochrane 7
4 0-04026 NORDIC BREEZE (IRE) (70) A Bailey 4 9 5 ... J Fortune 14
5 211100 RAMBO WALTZER (56) (C) D Nicholls 4 9 2 ... Alex Greaves 13
6 230334 QUILLING (10) M Dods 4 9 2 ... J F Egan 16
7 012204 SPANISH VERDICT (12) (C) Denys Smith 9 9 2 ... K Fallon 9
8 221150 BOLLIN FRANK (36) T Easterby 4 9 1 ... L Charnock 5
9 26345 IRISH SEA (USA) (3) D Nicholls 3 8 13 ... J Bramhill (7) 2
10 643114 BOLSARA (13) (D) (BF) C Fairhurst 4 8 10 ... D McKeown 12
11 65401 CHABROL (CAN) (9) T Clement 3 8 10 ... R Havlin (5) 11
12 616552 BENTICO (8) (D) Mrs N Macauley 7 8 8 ... C Teague (3) 1
13 004350 SPECIAL-K (7) (C) E Weymes 4 8 7 ... K Darley 10
14 004330 OCHOS RIOS (IRE) (7) B Rothwell 5 8 6 ... M Fenton 4
15 6210-12 LUNCH PARTY (24) D Nicholls 4 8 4 ... J Carroll 17
16 311036 HANNAH (8) E Alston 10 7 13 ... J Lowe 8
17 000486 NOBBY BARNES (10) (D) Don E Incisa 7 7 10 ... Kim Tinkler 6
– 17 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Nobby Barnes 7st 2lb.
BETTING: 11-2 Chabrol, 6-1 Ron's Secret, 7-1 Quilling, 8-1 Bollin Frank, 10-1 Ninia, Lunch Party, Bolsara, 12-1 others

4.50 BOROUGHBRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 5f

1 000304 BARRANAK (IRE) (3) G McCourt 4 9 2 ... J Weaver 2
2 066050 BLUE LUGANA (33) N Bycroft 4 9 2 ... M Wigham 11
3 0/-3 GLEN GARNOCK (IRE) (27) D Nicholls 4 9 2 ... Alex Greaves 13
4 03 BATALEUR (19) Miss J Bower 3 9 0 ... D R McCabe 5
5 5-0 HAPPY TRAVELLER (IRE) (7) C Murray 3 9 0 ... J F Egan 9
6 34-5203 RIVER TERN (8) J Berry 3 9 0 ... J Carroll 4 V
7 26 CRUZ SANTA (14) T D Barron 3 8 9 ... J Fortune 6
8 FOREIGN RELATION (IRE) P Webber 3 8 9 ... Dale Gibson 7
9 GIRL OF MY DREAMS M Heaton-Ellis 3 8 9 ... K Darley 3
10 HONEYHALL N Bycroft 3 8 9 ... J Lowe 10
11 5-5330 MERRILY (16) (BF) Miss S Hall 3 8 9 ... K Fallon 12
12 65000 PETARINA (10) Miss J Craze 3 8 9 ... N Connorton 8
13 00-4002 SUPERFRILLS (19) Miss L Siddall 3 8 9 ... Dean McKeown 1
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Merrily, 5-1 River Tern, 11-2 Superfrills, 6-1 Barranak, 7-1 Bataleur, 15-2 Happy Traveller, 8-1 Cruz Santa, 10-1 others

LINGFIELD

HYPERION

5.15 Astral Invader 5.45 Rumbustious 6.15 Dhulikhel 6.45 Atlantic Storm 7.15 Mighty Phantom 7.45 Fabulous Mtoto

GOING: Turf – Good to Firm; AW track – Standard.
STALLS: Straight – stands' side, 1m 3f – outside; AW – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f & 6f on turf course.
■ Left-hand, sharp course (Equitrack surface).
■ Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Members £13, Tattersalls £9; Silver Ring £6. **CAR PARK:** Club £3; remainder free.

SIS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Leith Academy (6.15), Miss Haversham (6.15), Atlantic Storm (visored, 6.45), Badger Bay (visored, 6.45), Designer Lines (visored, 6.45), Trilby (7.15), Arktikos (visored, 7.45).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Paradise Navy (7.15) won at Lingfield on Saturday.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Super Hero (5.15) sent 213 miles by A Newcombe from Huntshaw, Devon; Astral Invader (5.15) and Fabulous Mtoto (7.45) sent 158 miles by M Saunders from Haydon, Somerset.

5.15 BLACKBERRY LANE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 7f 140yds

1 00-0250 JUST HARRY (6) (C) (D) M Ryan 5 10 0 ... A McCarthy (5) 8
2 040146 SUPER PARK (28) J Pearce 4 9 11 ... R Ffrench (3) 1
3 030253 ASTRAL INVADER (11) (C) M Saunders 4 9 6 ... P Doe 6
4 023555 MR CUBE (24) (C) (D) J Bradley 6 9 6 ... C Lowther (5) 2 B
5 464016 OUR SHADEE (5) (CD) K Ivory 6 9 3 ... C Scudder (3) 5 V
6 043570 STONE ISLAND (11) C Cyzer 3 9 3 ... P Goode (10) 11
7 200133 SPORTING RISK (22) (C) P Harris 4 9 2 ... L James (7) 5
8 000203 RISE UP SINGING (21) (D) W Musson 8 9 0 ... J Wilkinson (5) 13 B
9 000-400 SWEET ALLEGIANCE (13) Jamie Poulton 6 8 8 ... T Field (5) 15
10 000-444 FAIRLY SURE (12) N Berry 3 8 8 ... D Denby 7
11 340405 TALLULAH BELLE (12) N Littmoden 3 8 3 ... David O'Neill (5) 4
12 50/-002 SUPER HERO (24) A Newcombe 4 8 2 ... Gaye Harwood 12
13 00-54 ALLSTARS DANCER (179) T J Naughton 3 7 13 ... Rachel Moody (10) 10
14 40-0000 MAKRAGAR (42) Jamie Poulton 4 7 12 ... J Dennis 16
15 00-0043 KIROV PROTEGE (38) Mrs L Jewell 4 7 11 ... R Brisland (5) 3
16 0000-00 CARWYN'S CHOICE (32) P Clarke 3 7 10 ... J Fowle (5) 14
– 16 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Carwyn's Choice 7st 5lb.
BETTING: 5-1 Sporting Risk, 6-1 Mr Cube, 7-1 Astral Invader, Super Hero, Our Shadee, 8-1 Rise Up Singing, Super Park, 10-1 others

5.45 SHARON MASSEY BIRTHDAY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2YO 6f

1 210 RETOTO (22) (D) B McMath 8 12 ... T Ives 4
2 002533 HEVER GOLF STORMER (9) T J Naughton 8 11 ... – 2
3 5 UNKNOWN TERRITORY (15) M Channon 8 11 ... C Rutter 1
4 0660P PRINCESS FERDINAND (9) M McCormack 8 6 ... A Clark 5
5 02 RUMBUSTIOUS (8) R Hannon 8 6 ... S Sanders 3
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 5-4 Rumbustious, 9-4 Hever Golf Stormer, 7-2 Retoto, 4-1 Unknown Territory, 20-1 Princess Ferdinand

6.15 O'KEEFE CHALLENGE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added fillies 1m 2f (AW)

1 23-6060 MISS HAVERSHAM (9) C Cyzer 4 10 0 ... P Bloomfield 5 B
2 521-006 SHE SAID NO (82) (CD) A Moore 4 9 7 ... Candy Morris 2
3 0050 ESQUILINE (USA) (37) J Gosden 3 9 6 ... C Rutter 1
4 44600-0 ZACAROON (138) (D) J Ffitch-Heyes 5 9 4 ... T Ives 3
5 123-005 LEITH ACADEMY (USA) (14) B Hills 3 9 4 ... J D Smith (5) 4 B
6 303331 BAKERS DAUGHTER (19) (D) J Arnold 4 9 2 ... A Clark 10
7 000 EARLY WARNING (35) C Egerton 3 8 12 ... M Henry (3) 6
8 000 MUJTAHIDA (22) R Armstrong 3 8 11 ... R Price 7
9 150063 DHULIKHEL (11) D Marks 3 8 2 ... S Sanders 8
10 064053 SHERWOOD (4) K Ivory 3 7 13 ... Martin Dwyer (5) 9
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Bakers Daughter, 3-1 Sherwood, Dhulikhel, 4-1 Leith Academy, 10-1 She Said No, 20-1 Esquiline, Mujtahida, 33-1 others

6.45 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO 7f 140yds

1 022 ATLANTIC STORM (23) J Gosden 9 0 ... G Hind 5 V
2 00 DESERT SCOUT (36) K McAuliffe 9 0 ... S Sanders 7
3 60 DESIGNER LINES (16) C James 9 0 ... C Rutter 8 V
4 520-325 DIAMOND BEACH (32) (BF) B Hills 9 0 ... T Quinn 3
5 0 IMPERIAL RED (9) H Collingridge 9 0 ... V Smith 2
6 50-0600 MOYLOUGH REBEL (19) J Long 9 0 ... Leesa Long 1
7 0000 THE GREY WEAVER (63) R Flower 9 0 ... S Drowne 6
8 003026 BADGER BAY (2) C Dwyer 8 9 ... Jo Hunnam (7) 3 V
9 00 SAMORELLE (5) M Ryan 8 9 ... A Clark 4
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Diamond Beach, 7-4 Atlantic Storm, 3-1 Badger Bay, 20-1 Designer Lines, Samorelle, The Grey Weaver, 33-1 others

7.15 MARITIME SERVICES LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m (AW)

1 404141 PARADISE NAVY (7) (CD) C Egerton 7 9 12 ... T Ives 4 B
2 163435 JULIASDARKINVADER (72) (CD) A Moore 6 9 8 ... A Clark 1
3 222114 OLD SCHOOL HOUSE (3) (D) T J Naughton 3 9 0 ... Dane O'Neill (3) 6
4 651315 MIGHTY PHANTOM (16) (CD) J Hills 3 8 9 ... M Henry (3) 3
5 350344 CHOCOLATE ICE (12) C Cyzer 3 8 8 ... P Bloomfield 2
6 055321 TRILBY (15) P Cole 3 8 7 ... T Quinn 5 B
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Paradise Navy, 11-4 Trilby, 7-2 Mighty Phantom, 5-1 Old School House, 6-1 Chocolate Ice, 25-1 Juliasdarkinvader

7.45 MILLCROFT GROUP HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 3f 106yds

1 046030 ARKTIKOS (14) J Gosden 3 9 10 ... B Doyle 1 V
2 441430 FABULOUS MTOTO (4) (D) M Saunders 6 9 8 ... O Urbina 2
3 654221 TWO SOCKS (21) (CD) M McCormack 3 9 8 ... A Clark 8
4 201350 GET TOUGH (19) S Dow 3 9 5 ... T Quinn 4
5 0003 FULL THROTTLE (43) (BF) M Tompkins 3 9 4 ... P Robinson 3
6 00-00 PASSING STRANGERS (USA) (10) P Harris 3 9 2 ... G Hind 7
7 000300 STUDIO THIRTY (59) (C) C Smith 4 8 5 ... C Rutter 6
8 010000 YELLOW DRAGON (26) (D) B Pearce 3 8 3 ... Leesa Long 5
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Two Socks, 11-4 Passing Strangers, 3-1 Fabulous Mtoto, 8-1 Arktikos, Studio Thirty, 10-1 Full Throttle, 14-1 Get Tough, 33-1 others

■ Strong support was reported yesterday for First Island in Tuesday's International Stakes at York. Ladbrokes have cut his odds from 100-30 to 11-4. The Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained Spectrum has eased to 8-1 from 6-1. In the Tote Ebor Handicap on Wednesday, Beauchamp Jade has been supported again and is now 7-1 from 8-1 while Ambassador, trained by last year's successful handler Barry Hills, is now 10-1 from 12-1.

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION

7.00 Sioux Rouge 7.30 Yeoman Oliver 8.00 Serious Sensation 8.30 Barrack Yard 9.00 Tinkerbell 9.30 Moonraking

GOING: Standard.
STALLS: Inside, except 7f – outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m 4f.
■ Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.
■ Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1m. **ADMISSION:** Club £15; Tattersalls £6 (OAP members of Diamond Club £4); Viewing Restaurant £25.00 including entrance and meal. **CAR PARK:** Free

SIS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Dream Of Nurmi (visored, 7.00), Kass Alhawa (7.30), Yeoman Oliver (7.30), Hal's Pal (8.00), Baron Awafeh (visored, 8.30), Hrabovsky (9.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Dazzling (9.30) sent 170 miles from D O'Brien's Capel stable in Kent; Moonraking (9.30) sent 148 miles from T Etherington's Norton stable in North Yorkshire; Sioux Rouge (7.00) sent 140 miles from P Haslam's Middleham stable in North Yorkshire; Waikiki Beach (8.00) sent 139 miles from G Moore's Epsom stable in Surrey; Hever Golf Diamond (7.30) sent 139 miles from T J Naughton's Epsom stable in Surrey; Kass Alhawa (7.30) & Desert Invader (8.00) sent 134 miles from D Chapman's Stillington stable in North Yorkshire; Move With Edes (8.30) & Surprise Event (9.00) sent 131 miles from W Turner's Corton Denham stable in Somerset.

7.00 EBF STARFISH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 7f

1 CARLYS QUEST J Neville 9 0 ... Paul Eddery 9
2 COUNT TONY S Woods 9 0 ... D Biggs 1
3 42 DREAM OF NURMI (18) D Loder 9 0 ... R Hughes 5 V
4 40 HIGHWAY ROBBER (IRE) (13) J Eustace 9 0 ... J Tate 2
5 LE GRAND GOUSIER (USA) R Williams 9 0 ... R Cochrane 8
6 0 MYSTERIUM (9) N Littmoden 9 0 ... T G McLaughlin 3
7 NONQUISTA D'OR G Ham 9 0 ... W J O'Connor 6
8 03 SIOUXROUGE (12) P Haslam 9 0 ... J Stack 7
9 52 MUDFLAP (33) Sir Mark Prescott 8 9 ... G Duffield 4
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 4-5 Dream Of Nurmi, 5-1 Mudflap, 6-1 Siouxrouge, 8-1 Highway Robber, 10-1 Count Tony, 12-1 Le Grand Gousier, 20-1 others

7.30 SEA BREEZE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO 1m 1f 79yds

1 641200 YEOMAN OLIVER (22) (C) B McMahon 9 1 ... G Duffield 4 B
2 AFON ALWEN S Williams 9 0 ... J Tate 6
3 THEME ARENA S Mellor 9 0 ... M Wigham 3
4 4-250 KASS ALHAWA (8) D Chapman 8 9 ... A Culhane 5 B
5 6 MRS DRUMMOND (IRE) (10) A Jarvis 8 6 ... W J O'Connor 1
6 0002-00 TINA KATERINA (29) R Champion 8 6 ... R Cochrane 8
7 005-421 LIA FAIL (IRE) (112) (C) R Hollinshead 8 4 ... F Lynch (3) 7
8 003000 HEVER GOLF DIAMOND (21) T J Naughton 8 3 Paul Eddery 2
9 003000 ECCENTRIC DANCER (22) M Saby 8 0 ... J Quinn 9 B
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Yeoman Oliver, 3-1 Lia Fail, 7-2 Kass Alhawa, 6-1 Hever Golf Diamond, 10-1 Afon Alwen, 14-1 Eccentric Dancer, 16-1 others

8.00 FOLEY STEELSTOCK HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 1f 79yds

1 143454 MAPLE BAY (IRE) (7) (CD) A Bailey 7 10 0 ... P Roberts (5) 12
2 003301 SUPER HIGH (8) (C) P Howling 4 9 11 ... Paul Eddery 3 B
3 143414 WAIKIKI BEACH (8) (C) G L Moore 5 9 8 ... S Whitworth 4
4 5021 SERIOUS SENSATION (8) (CD) M Prescott 3 9 7 ... G Duffield 2
5 605020 SOUTH EASTERN FRED (15) (CD) H Collingridge 5 9 7 ... M Rimmer 7
6 42-201 HAL'S PAL (8) (CD) D Loder 3 9 7 ... R Hughes 6 B
7 054520 DESERT INVADER (8) (C) D Chapman 5 9 5 ... A Culhane 13
8 606800 LE SPORT (8) (C) A Bailey 3 9 2 ... J Stack 5
9 631216 ETHBAAT (USA) (8) (C) (BF) M Heaton-Ellis 5 9 0 A McGlone 8
10 50-1200 COOL FIRE (71) S Woods 3 8 13 ... D Biggs 10
11 653540 HEATHYARDS LADY (10) (C) R Hollinshead 5 8 13 F Lynch (3) 11
12 050613 PHILISTAR (22) J Eustace 3 8 6 ... R Cochrane 1
13 503250 AFRICAN-PARD (9) D Haydn Jones 4 8 5 ... A Mackay 9 V
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Hal's Pal, 4-1 Serious Sensation, 6-1 Maple Bay, 8-1 Super High, 10-1 Waikiki Beach, African-Pard, 12-1 Philistar, 14-1 others

8.30 PLYVINE CATERING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 7f

1 0-20814 MOVE WITH EDES (22) (D) W Turner 4 10 0 D Sweeney (7) 8
2 2455-00 SHAHIK (USA) (206) D Haydn Jones 6 9 12 ... F Norton 1
3 00151 BARRACK YARD (21) (D) A Stewart 3 9 7 ... S Whitworth 4
4 015500 DRAGONJOY (22) (C) (D) N Littmoden 3 9 7 ... R Hughes 2 B
5 245364 QUINZII MARTIN (42) (CD) D H Jones 8 9 4 ... A Mackay 11 B
6 510000 TWIN CREEKS (110) (D) V Soane 5 9 4 ... R Cochrane 9
7 640403 MAN OF WIT (IRE) (8) A Jarvis 3 9 3 ... W J O'Connor 10 V
8 3306-20 MISS IMPULSE (23) Miss J Bower 3 9 0 ... J Quinn 12
9 133162 PANTHER (IRE) (8) (C) P Evans 6 8 12 ... F Egan 6
10 550640 WHAT A NIGHTMARE (22) (CD) P Howling 4 8 12 Paul Eddery 7 B
11 020062 NORTHERN JUDGE (7) B Hanbury 3 8 8 ... J Stack 5 B
12 0-22050 AWAFEH (21) S Mellor 3 8 7 ... N Adams 3 V
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Barrack Yard, 9-2 Panther, 6-1 Move With Edes, 8-1 Quinzii Martin, 10-1 Man Of Wit, 12-1 What A Nightmare, 20-1 others

9.00 CANDY-FLOSS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2YO 7f

1 00530 GROVEFAIR LAD (IRE) (3) B Meehan 8 11 ... M Tebbutt 6
2 RAMBO TANGO B Cambidge 8 11 ... A Culhane 3
3 006 READ YOUR CONTRACT (IRE) (42) J Berry 8 11 ... J Quinn 5 V
4 0334 SURPRISE EVENT (25) (BF) W Turner 8 11 ... D Sweeney (7) 4
5 56153 TINKERBELL (6) (CD) Lord Huntingdon 8 11 ... R Hughes 7 V
6 05 CANDLE LIGHT (IRE) (100) A Jarvis 8 6 ... W J O'Connor 2
7 3 HOPPERETTA (26) B Paling 8 6 ... T Sprake 1
8 5 SIMPLY BLESSED (22) J Neville 8 6 ... F Norton 8
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Surprise Event, 7-2 Tinkerbell, 4-1 Grovefair Lad, 5-1 Hopperetta, 7-1 Candle Light, 10-1 Read Your Contract, 14-1 others

9.30 CHEMIQUE ADHESIVES MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,600 added 1m 4f

1 030444 CHEVALIER (USA) (26) I Campbell 4 9 12 ... S Whitworth 4
2 445 DAZZLING (8) D O'Brien 3 9 2 ... G Bardwell 11
3 0-30050 ZATOPEK (33) J Cullinan 4 9 2 ... R Hughes 8
4 0-00004 BACKWOODS (5) W Brisbourne 3 8 11 ... G Duffield 2
5 5/30-000 MAZIRAH (15) P Makin 5 8 11 ... Paul Eddery 9
6 0202 MOONRAKING (33) (BF) T Etherington 3 8 10 ... D Gibson 12
7 00-035 BARON HRABOVSKY (10) P Cole 3 8 6 ... F Egan 10 B
8 00-03 INDIAN SUNSET (9) C Egerton 3 8 5 ... T Sprake 1
9 0456P4 MISS PRAVDA (13) B Llewellyn 3 8 4 ... J Bramhill (7) 7
10 540505 TANIYAR (FR) (26) R Hollinshead 4 8 4 ... F Lynch (3) 3
11 364 NORDIC HERO (IRE) (107) A Jarvis 3 8 4 ... W J O'Connor 3
12 05/00-40 DRAMA KING (12) S Bowring 4 8 0 ... J Quinn 5 B
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Moonraking, 5-1 Indian Sunset, 6-1 Zatopek, 8-1 Baron Hrabovsky, 10-1 Dazzling, Chevalier, 12-1 others

sport

Russell may be cast as the Illingworth sacrifice

Cricket
DEREK PRINGLE

What will Raymond Illingworth's final selection meeting for a home Test bring? An unchanged England side in the ascendant after a sparkling batting performance at Headingley? Or another one-off situation where the demands for victory need to be tailored for at the expense of longer-lasting fabric? These are the questions facing England's selectors and their chairman when they meet tonight to select England's squad for next week's final Test against Pakistan at The Oval.

Since Illingworth's appointment as chairman in 1994, England have not lost a home series, winning two – against New Zealand and India – while drawing against South Africa and the West Indies. Having stained his reputation, by being found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, the dilemma is a poignant one. Illingworth may have lost some respect but, being a proud man, he will not want to lose his home record as well.

It is difficult to see where he and his fellow selectors can go to get the victory they crave. England may have hit upon the winning formula with the bat for the moment – the top six batting confidently as a unit, with left and right-handers dovetailing neatly to keep Pakistan's bowlers from settling – yet victory was never really threatened.

But if the batting blossomed and laid down some solid roots, the bowlers – given some typical English conditions to bowl in on the first morning – balked, bowling a hard-wicket length with a line that strayed too far to bother batsmen anticipating movement. By the time they had discovered the Headingley optimum (in the second innings), the pitch had flattened and the clock ticked harmlessly down for the draw. A result not often attributed to that mecca for English style, seam and swing.

However, in recent times the hard, bouncy Oval pitch has been every bit a banker for England as the seaming stodge traditionally served at Yorkshire's HQ. Given its position in the calendar, late August – a time when all players are usually claiming fatigue – England's record at The Oval is impressive. Since 1988, when an inexperienced side lost there to the West Indies, England have been beaten just once. Ominously, it was by Pakistan, their reverse swing blowing away England's batting. On that occasion, England went in with five front-line bowlers, one more than brought success against Australia and South Africa, the latter without a spinner.

Unless Jack Russell is left out, it is that four-pronged pace attack that Michael Atherton will probably push for again despite Ian Salisbury's wickets for the TCCB XI against South Africa 'A' at Chester-le-Street. Salisbury is a bowler best used for attack over short spells rather than as a stock bowler – a situation that will demand 30 tidy overs a day to constipate batsmen rather than give them runs.

It is a role better suited to Phil Tufnell and Peter Such, though neither curries much favour with Illingworth. Not that the pace bowlers have been especially frugal. Chris Lewis, in particular, lacked direction at Headingley, a failing Surrey fans saw last week during their side's defeat by Essex in the semi-final of the NatWest Trophy. With Andy Caddick nursing a back strain, Lewis may well be retained. Either way, Darren Gough looks certain to be the man springing out of the hat to join Dominic Cork and Alan Mullally – Devon Malcolm presumably being overlooked on the purely cricketing criterion of taking two recent 10-wicket hauls with an unchanged action.

An all-rounder, probably Mark Ealham, will no doubt be included in the squad, too, though it will be difficult to see him playing, particularly in front of a batsman. Unless, of course, there is a return to that old Illingworth chestnut of playing Alec Stewart behind the stumps. Last time around, it was a move the other selectors persuaded Illingworth to resist. But with England's and his own home record in jeopardy, Russell is the sacrifice the departing chairman may demand.

My squad: M Atherton (capt), A Stewart (to open and keep), N Hussain, G Thorpe, J Crawley, N Knight, D Cork, A Caddick, D Gough, A Mullally, C Lewis, M Ealham, P Such.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Canterbury treated to run feast ■ Tykes' title hopes tumble at Bristol ■ Carnage from Kiwi

Trim Walker rewrites Kent's record books

DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from Canterbury
Kent 616-7 dec;
Somerset 119-3

Matthew Walker was halfway back to the dressing room before he realised he had rewritten a part of Kent's history. It needed an announcement over the public address system to let him know he had made the highest score by any Kent batsman on the St Lawrence Ground, beating by five runs the 270 set by another left-hander, Frank Woolley, against Middlesex in 1923. WG Grace's 344 for MCC versus Kent remains the highest by any batsman on the ground.

At lunch Walker was told by his team-mates that the record was 277. "When the captain [Trevor Ward] called us in with me on 275 I thought it was a bit harsh. It wasn't until the Tannoy announcement that I knew I had done it after all."

The former England Under-19 captain, now 22, cuts a chunky figure at 5ft 6in with plenty of natural padding, so what he looked like before he shed the stone as he was ordered to do earlier this season, heaven alone knows. But having reshaped himself and the record books, he looks to have refashioned his career. The bare facts of his undefeated innings make impressive reading as an example of concentration and a degree of maturity so far lacking in Walker's make-up: 41 fours off 439 balls and only two false shots, towards the end of play on the first day.

His nine-and-a-half hour epic, apart from being the highest individual score by a Kent batsman against Somerset – Woolley, again, set the previous mark at 215 – also helped Kent reach their highest total on the ground against anyone.

More importantly, it helped put Kent into a commanding position against a lacklustre Somerset and reinforced their championship challenge. Needing 467 just to avoid the follow-on, things looked bleak for Somerset in the late evening sunshine as they lost three wickets, all of them to Dean Headley.

If there was a tinge of sadness that yet another piece of history has been overtaken, Walker, who now holds fourth place in the list of Kent's individual top scorers and also becomes the highest-scoring left-handed batsman in the county's history, at least promises to make viewing exciting. The misery of the last 18 months or so, when nothing seemed to go right for Walker, have been put behind him.

"I saw myself on video and my technique was terrible and perhaps I was too aggressive at times," he said. "But I sat down with the coach and sorted things out, got my head together and prepared myself to bat for a long time. I'm pleased to have stayed in so long for this innings."

Yorkshire's misery completed by Walsh

DEREK HODGSON
reports from Bristol
Yorkshire 166 and 179
Gloucestershire 329 and 17-0
Gloucs won by 10 wickets

Graham Gooch was here yesterday, presumably to watch Mike Smith and Chris Silverwood. Neither winter tour candidate disgraced himself but what Gooch did see, as so many fellow selectors have seen for 20 years, is an overseas fast bowler spearing the ball past hapless young English batsmen.

Courtney Walsh finished with match figures of 9 for 59 and only when he was not bowling did Yorkshire seem on level terms. In the first innings they could lay some blame on the pitch and haze: in the second they had no such excuse; with three of their top five 23 years old or under, they were routed.

What Gooch may also have been watching is the Indian summer of the overseas professional. Walsh has yet to re-sign the two-year contract but if he does Gloucestershire are reconciled to losing him, to the West Indies Test programme, until June 1997.

With more year-round contracts on offer, no overseas professionals here in the World Cup year of 1999, the breed might be extinct by 2000.

In an inept day Yorkshire were not even capable of exciting the Gloucestershire tail quickly. Jack Russell helped add another 15 with Alleyne, 26 with Smith and 54 for the last wicket with his captain.

Silverwood, announced yesterday as the Young Cricketer of the Year, supplied Yorkshire's only consolation, with 5 for 78.

In Walsh's second over after lunch he had Martyn Moxon caught low down at slip and then surprised David Byas again with his lift. Byas shaped to turn the ball to leg but managed only a top edge that looped gently to gully.

Anthony McGrath, who since his king pair at Scarborough has been learning how cruel this game can be, was beaten by Smith's late swing and if Richard Kettleborough was hoping for a little luck he learned better when he was driven back on to his stumps.

Michael Vaughan was one who seemed to have met the pace and was unfortunate to be picked up, brilliantly, low at extra cover.

As in the first innings Craig White and Richard Blakey gave the innings a veneer of respectability but after tea, Courtney left it to Smith and

Phil DeFreitas of Derbyshire celebrates the wicket of Nottinghamshire's Paul Pollard yesterday Photograph: Rui Vieira

Free-flowing Cairns swings into action

HENRY BLOFELD
reports from Derby
Derbyshire 341 and 49-0
Nottinghamshire 317

On a pitch which, under two days of sun, had lost all its moisture and become most amiable, Derbyshire's bowling did not quite live up to its high reputation.

Nottinghamshire, belying their position one from the bottom of the Championship table, batted with commendable solidarity and, as far as Chris Cairns was concerned, with flair. Tim Robinson played a typically worthy innings of 53 in 39 overs. Paul Johnson, who has not had a happy season with the bat, made 82 at much the same pace until he became infected by Cairns's sense of adventure after passing 50.

Cairns, a tall man with an unruly crop of hair sticking out of the back of his cap, has a lovely free-swinging backlift, a natural sense of timing and a marvellous eye. He drove, cut and pulled more as if this was a Sunday afternoon knockabout than a crucial Championship match.

He had come in after Phillip DeFreitas had removed Robinson and Usman Afzaal with successive balls, and was within a whisker of being bowled as he pushed forward to the hat-trick ball. He then set about the bowling with a rare flourish, and suddenly what had seemed hard labour was made to appear fun. At 75, he paid the penalty of his own exuberance, hooking at Devon Malcolm and skying a catch off the top edge that Tim O'Gorman judged well at fine leg.

Malcolm had a mixed day. He was fierce and threatening at the start, when he was unlucky to have Robinson, on one at the time, dropped by Dominic Cork at first slip. Malcolm bowled well again after lunch, but when he returned later on and Cairns and Johnson were going well, he was much more manageable. However, he did have Johnson caught behind as he tried to run him down to third man. Overall, it was not a performance which would have changed Ray Illingworth's mind nor would it have confirmed his worst fears.

DeFreitas was the best of the Derbyshire bowlers, picking up four wickets, while Cork, never a man to be discounted in any situation, has so far enjoyed his batting more than his bowling. He got to within three runs of his second first-class hundred when he skied a catch to cover off the leading edge in trying to play Mark Bowen to midwicket. With six wickets, Bowen returned the best figures of his career.

Gooch to tour as 'A' coach

Round-up

Graham Gooch will be going to Australia again this winter – as coach of England's 'A' team. Gooch, who made four visits to Australia, one as captain in 1990-91, will be joined on the trip by his fellow England selector and the tour manager, David Graveney.

The 43-year-old Essex batsman made the last of his record 118 Tests on his last Australian tour in 1994-95 and his experience will be vital to a squad which departs on 23 October and returns on 15 December.

England 'A' will play four four-day matches against New South Wales Second XI, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and Queensland at the Gabba in Brisbane in the final fixture of the tour.

The last tour to Australia in 1993 brought on Graham Thorpe and Andrew Caddick to full Test status but the team captained by Yorkshire's Martyn Moxon did not win any of their four first-class matches against South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and Queensland, although they were successful in four of the seven non-first-class games.

Ashley Giles, the Warwickshire left-arm spinner, took his second six-wicket haul of the week to leave Glamorgan facing a heavy defeat at Edgbaston.

Giles, who was awarded his county cap after he took a career-best 6 for 45 against Durham on Monday, took 6 for 63 in 28.2 intelligent overs as Glamorgan slumped from 159 for 2 to 214 all out.

Glamorgan were made to follow on 284 runs adrift of Warwickshire's 498 and they lost opener Hugh Morris, caught at second slip off Tim Munton, as they reached 35 for 1.

Saqlian Mushtaq sent Leicestershire spinning to defeat by Pakistan at Grace Road yesterday. The 19-year-old took 6 for 52 as Leicestershire were bowled out for 183, losing by 101 runs.

That performance makes him a strong candidate for a place in Pakistan's side for the third Test against England at The Oval starting next Thursday.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Second day of four; today 11.0

Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire

DERBY: Derbyshire (7pts), with all second-innings standing, are 74 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire (7).

Derbyshire won toss

DERBYSHIRE – First Innings
(Overnight: 310 for 8)
D G Cork c Johnson b Bowen 97
K J Dean not out 3
D E Malcolm b Bowen 1
Extras (b10, lb5, nb16) 35
Total (111.2 overs) 341
Fall (cont): 9-339.
Bowling: Cairns 23-8-105-2; Evans 22-3-74-1; Bowen 30.2-10-53-5; Tolley 21-2-67-0; Afford 9-2-23-2.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – First Innings
P R Pollard c sub b DeFreitas 2
R T Robinson c Krikken b DeFreitas 53
A A Metcalfe lbw b Dean 16
*P Johnson c Krikken b Malcolm 82
U Afzaal lbw b DeFreitas 0
C L Cairns c O'Gorman b Malcolm 75
C M Tolley b DeFreitas 27
K P Evans c Adams b Dean 9
†W M Noon not out 9
M N Bowen lbw b Dean 4
J A Afford lbw b DeFreitas 0
Extras (b15, lb3, w2, nb20) 40
Total (78.5 overs) 317
Fall: 1-12, 2-56, 3-115, 4-115, 5-244, 6-281, 7-301, 8-303, 9-312.
Bowling: Malcolm 19-1-108-2; DeFreitas 20.5-4-54-5; Cork 14-2-53-0; Dean 17-4-47-3; Vandrau 1-0-17-0; Barnett 7-2-20-0.

DERBYSHIRE – Second Innings
K J Barnett not out 29
M J Vandrau not out 16
Extras (b2, lb2) 4
Total (for 0, 18 overs) 49
To bat: A S Rollins, C J Adams, *D M Jones, T J G O'Gorman, P A J DeFreitas, †K M Krikken, D G Cork, K J Dean, D E Malcolm.
Bowling: Cairns 6-1-23-0; Bowen 7-1-21-0; Afford 2-1-1-0.
Umpires: R Palmer and R A White.

Gloucestershire v Yorkshire

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire (23pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by 10 wickets.

Yorkshire won toss

YORKSHIRE – First Innings 166 (C White 74; C A Walsh 6-22).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE – First Innings
(Overnight: 211 for 6)
R P Davis c Byas b Silverwood 19
M W Alleyne c Blakey b Hartley 25
†R C Russell not out 26
A M Smith c Blakey b Hartley 19
*C A Walsh b Silverwood 25
Extras (b13, lb4, nb18) 35
Total (89.5 overs) 329
Fall (cont): 7-234, 8-249, 9-275.
Bowling: Gough 24-3-72-2; Silverwood 24.5-5-78-5; Hartley 20-2-76-2; Stemp 7-0-27-0; White 14-0-59-1.

YORKSHIRE – Second Innings
M D Moxon c Symonds b Walsh 1
M P Vaughan c Symonds b Alleyne 35
*D Byas c Alleyne b Walsh 3
A McGrath b Smith 3
R A Kettleborough lbw b Walsh 7
C White b Smith 20
†R J Blakey not out 42
D Gough b Smith 4
P J Hartley c Alleyne b Davis 38
C E W Silverwood c and b Davis 0
R D Stemp c Walsh b Davis 0
Extras (b4, nb12) 16
Total (53.2 overs) 179
Fall: 1-3, 2-7, 3-22, 4-38, 5-58, 6-104, 7-108, 8-171, 9-171.
Bowling: Smith 13-2-56-3; Walsh 12-2-37-3; Alleyne 12-5-29-1; Lewis 7-2-17-0; Davis 8.2-1-31-3; Symonds 1-0-5-0.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Second Innings
D R Hewson not out 6
M G N Windows not out 10
Extras (w1) 1
Total (for 0, 4.1 overs) 17
Did not bat: A Symonds, T H C Hancock, M A Lynch, M W Alleyne, †R C Russell, R P Davis, A M Smith, J Lewis, *C A Walsh.
Bowling: Gough 2.1-0-7-0; Silverwood 2-0-10-0.
Umpires: G I Burgess and A A Jones.

Kent v Somerset

CANTERBURY: Somerset (3pts), with seven first-innings wickets standing, are 467 runs behind Kent (5).

Kent won toss

KENT – First Innings
(Overnight: 413 for 4)
M J Walker not out 275
M V Fleming c Harden b Rose 26
†S C Willis lbw b Rose 1
M M Patel b Lee 14
D W Headley not out 63
Extras (b9, lb14, nb26) 49
Total (for 7 dec, 151.3 overs) 616
Fall (cont): 5-424, 6-436, 7-479.
Did not bat: M J McCague, T N Wren.
Score at 120 overs: 492 for 7.
Bowling: Rose 27-5-92-2; Lee 35-3-159-1; Kerr 27-3-143-2; Batty 41.3-11-122-2; Parsons 12-2-40-0; Trescothick 9-1-37-0.

SOMERSET – First Innings
M N Lathwell c Fulton b Headley 43
M E Trescothick lbw b Headley 8
K A Parsons c Willis b Headley 2
R J Harden not out 36
S C Ecclestone not out 19
Extras (b5, w4, nb2) 11
Total (for 3, 59 overs) 119
Fall: 1-22, 2-28, 3-90.
To bat: *P D Bowler, S Lee, †R J Turner, G D Rose, J I D Kerr, J D Batty.
Bowling: McCague 7-3-16-0; Headley 13-5-23-3; Wren 8-3-22-0; Patel 22-10-34-0; Hooper 9-3-19-0.
Umpires: B Leadbeater and A Clarkson.

Lancashire v Hampshire

OLD TRAFFORD: Hampshire (5pts), with three first-innings standing, are 114 runs behind Lancashire (6).

Lancashire won toss

LANCASHIRE – First Innings
(Overnight: 303 for 8)
†W K Hegg c Maru b Renshaw 48
P J Martin c and b Stephenson 37
G Keedy not out 8
Extras (lb7 w1 nb4) 12
Total (127 overs) 342
Fall (cont): 9-319.
Score at 120 overs: 327 for 9.
Bowling: Thursfield 11-1-46-0; Renshaw 19-5-42-3; Stephenson 23-8-64-3; Udal 41-8-106-3; Maru 24-10-61-1; Whitaker 9-3-8-0.

HAMPSHIRE – First Innings
*J P Stephenson c Hegg b Martin 7
G W White lbw b Chapple 58
P R Wheeler c Atherton b Chapple 10
R A Smith b Martin 17
W S Kendall c Keedy b Watkinson 63
M Keech not out 56
†A N Aymes b Watkinson 0
S D Udal c Hegg b Gallian 10
M J Thursfield not out 4
Extras (e2, lb9, nb2) 13
Total (for 7, 88 overs) 228
Fall: 1-16, 2-29, 3-48, 4-143, 5-167, 6-169, 7-217.
To bat: R J Maru, S J Renshaw.
Bowling: Martin 17-10-21-2; Chapple 15-5-42-2; Watkinson 18-2-71-2; Keedy 21-6-44-0; Green 11-1-22-0; Atherton 2-0-7-0; Gallian 4-1-10-1.
Umpires: J D Bond and B Dudleston.

Middlesex v Worcestershire

LORD'S: Middlesex (3pts), with four first-innings standing, are 202 runs behind Worcestershire (6).

Middlesex won toss

WORCESTERSHIRE – First Innings
(Overnight: 328 for 7)
S R Lampitt lbw b Hewitt 30
R K Illingworth c Carr b Fraser 12
S W K Ellis b Hewitt 10
A Sheriyar not out 2
Extras (lb11, nb4) 15
Total (126.5 overs) 369
Fall (cont): 8-345, 9-365.
Score at 120 overs: 355 for 8.
Bowling: Fraser 33.5-9-69-3; Fay 27-7-70-2; Johnson 11-0-70-0; Hewitt 23.5-7-3-3; Tufnell 26-11-48-2; Weekes 6-0-28-0.

MIDDLESEX – First Innings
P N Weekes c Hick b Sheriyar 0
J C Pooley c Weston b Illingworth 45
M R Ramprakash c Hick b Illingworth 64
*M W Gatting b Lampitt 25
J D Carr not out 14
†K R Brown c Spring b Lampitt 0
J P Hewitt lbw b Illingworth 10
R L Johnson not out 0
Extras (lb5, w4) 9
Total (for 6, 82 overs) 167
Fall: 1-0, 2-83, 3-133, 4-142, 5-142, 6-167.
To bat: R A Fay, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell.
Bowling: Sheriyar 14-3-30-1; Ellis 8-1-22-0; Moody 6-0-13-0; Lampitt 16-3-34-2; Illingworth 27-10-43-3; Solanki 11-4-20-0.
Umpires: J H Harris and R Julian.

Warwickshire v Glamorgan

EDGBASTON: Glamorgan (5pts), with nine second-innings standing, are 249 runs behind Warwickshire (8).

Warwickshire won toss

WARWICKSHIRE – First Innings
(Overnight: 412 for 7)
S M Pollock not out 150
N M K Smith c Morgan b Waddin 26
A F Giles c Maynard b Watkin 1
T A Munton b Gibson 14
Extras (b10 lb13 w1 nb16) 40
Total (125.4 overs) 498
Fall (cont): 8-450 9-464.
Score at 120 overs: 472 for 9.
Bowling: Watkin 34-7-136-3; Gibson 26.4-2-122-3; Parkin 15-3-58-1; Dale 11-2-39-0; Croft 36-7-110-3; Hemp 2-0-11-0; Maynard 1-0-1-0.

GLAMORGAN – First Innings
S P James c Powell b Smith 90
H Morris c Ostler b Giles 7
D L Hemp c Piper b Munton 11
*M P Maynard st Piper b Giles 69
P A Cottey c Penney b Giles 1
A Dale c Ostler b Smith 4
Q D Gibson lbw b Giles 4
R D B Croft c Ostler b Smith 0
†G P Metson b Giles 0
S L Watkin not out 5
O T Parkin b Giles 14
Extras (b4, lb3, nb2) 9
Total (68.2 overs) 214
Fall: 1-32, 2-45, 3-159, 4-173, 5-184, 6-189, 7-190, 8-195, 9-195.
Bowling: Pollock 10-3-38-0; Munton 12-2-54-1; Giles 28.2-8-63-6; Smith 18-3-52-3.

GLAMORGAN – Second Innings
S P James not out 14
H Morris c Ostler b Munton 0
D L Hemp not out 13
Extras (nb9) 9
Total (for 1, 12 overs) 35
Fall: 1-10.
Bowling: Pollock 4-1-8-0; Munton 5-1-16-1; Giles 3-0-10-0; Smith 1-0-1-0.
Umpires: J C Balderstone and V A Holder.

Tetley's Challenge Series
Final day of three

Leicestershire v Pakistan

LEICESTER: Pakistan beat Leicestershire by 101 runs.

Pakistan won toss

PAKISTAN – First Innings 221 (M T Brimson 4-39).

LEICESTERSHIRE – First Innings 199 (Mohammad Akram 7-61).

PAKISTAN – Second Innings
(Overnight: 221 for 3)
Shahid Anwar lbw b Parsons 89
Salim Malik run out 22
Asif Mujtaba not out 12
†Moin Khan c Clarke b Pierson 11
Saqlain Mushtaq not out 11
Extras (b10, lb1, w2) 13
Total (for 6 dec, 86 overs) 282
Fall (cont): 4-223, 5-226, 6-245.
Did not bat: Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Akram, Ata-ur-Rehman.
Bowling: Millns 5-0-15-0; Parsons 21-8-62-3; Brimson 19-0-74-0; Clarke 7-0-42-1; Pierson 16-2-38-1.

LEICESTERSHIRE – Second Innings
D L Maddy c Moin b Mushtaq 16
T J Suckling c Mushtaq b Mohammad 1
B F Smith lbw b Saqlain 43
G J Parsons lbw b Mohammad 10
A Habib c Mohammad b Saqlain 27
†P A Nixon c Asif b Saqlain 21
V P Clarke c Asif b Saqlain 0
*V J Wells c Ata-ur-Rehman b Saqlain 0
D J Millns lbw b Aamir 26
A R K Pierson c Asif b Saqlain 11
M T Brimson not out 10
Extras (b7, lb5, nb2) 14
Total (66.4 overs) 183
Fall: 1-6, 2-46, 3-62, 4-80, 5-113, 6-113, 7-125, 8-128, 9-150.
Bowling: Ata-ur-Rehman 4-1-12-0; Mohammad Akram 13-2-48-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 16-5-47-1; Asif Mujtaba 2-1-4-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 25-7-52-6; Aamir Sohail 6.4-2-4-1.
Umpires: M J Kitchen and G Sharp.

SECOND UNDER-19 TEST (second day of four; 11.0 today): Worcester: England 178 (O A Shah 69; D G Sewell 6-47) and 110 for 4. New Zealand 329 (G J Hopkins 79, M D Bell 66; M Hogard 5-85).

TOUR MATCH (second day of four; 11.0 today): Chester-le-Street: South Africa A 302 (N Boje 62, G F J Liebenberg 54, M W Pangle 52; I D K Salisbury 4-82) and 160 for 6 (J B Commins 80 not; TCCB XI 338 (A D Brown 79, J A Daley 76; M W Pangle 4-123).

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of two): Stone: Staffordshire 249 for 4 (P F Shaw 94, D K Pashley 87) and 284 for 8 (M I Humphries 102no, S J Dean 52); Suffolk 226 for 4 (D W Randall 91) and 82 for 3. Staffordshire (5pts) draw with Suffolk (5).

Starting today

Tetley's Challenge Series
Three days, including play tomorrow. 11.0
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Pakistan.
OTHER MATCH (three days, includes play tomorrow, 11.0): Linlithgow: Scotland v Ireland.

Tomorrow

AXA Equity & Law League
(One day, 2.0 unless stated)
DERBY: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire.
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Yorkshire.
CANTERBURY: Kent v Somerset.
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Hampshire.
LORD'S: Middlesex v Worcestershire.
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Glamorgan (1.0).
MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (two days, 11.0): Dunstable: Bedfordshire v Cumberland. Hertfordshire v Leicestershire. Rover Cup: Oxfordshire v Herefordshire. Penarth: Wales v Dorset. Marlborough CC: Wiltshire v Berkshire.

SPORTING DIGEST

TODAY

Football
3.0 unless stated

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Rushden & Diamonds; Hayes v Southport; Hednesford v Dover; Kidderminster v Gateshead; Macclesfield v Kettering; Morecambe v Woking; Northwich v Bath; Slough v Stalybridge; Stevenage v Halifax; Telford v Farnborough; Welling v Bromsgrove.

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bromley v Staines; Carshalton v Enfield; Chertsey v Heybridge; Dagenham Redbridge v Harrow Borough; Dulwich Hamlet v Yeading; Grays v Yeovil; Hendon v Sutton Utd; Hitchin v Aylesbury; Kingstonian v Boreham Wood; Oxford City v Bishop's Stortford; St Albans v Purfleet. First Division: Abingdon Town v Whyteleafe; Aldershot v Bognor Regis; Barton v Uxbridge; Basingstoke v Thame; Berkhamsted v Wokingham; Croydon v Leyton Pennant; Hampton v Billericay; Maidenhead v Canvey Island; Marlow v Tooting; Walton v Cheshunt; Worthing v Molesey. Second Division: Banstead v Bedford; Barking v Dorking; Chalfont St Peter v Edgware; Cheshunt v Leighton; Hemel Hempstead v Witham; Horsham v Egham; Hungerford v Tilbury; Leatherhead v Ware; Metropolitan Police v Bracknell; Windsor & Eton v Collier Row; Wivenhoe v Wembley. Third Division: Aveley v Northwood; East Thurrock v Harlow; Hertford v Flackwell Heath; Hornchurch v Epsom & Ewell; Lewes v Braintree; Southall v Kingsbury; Wealdstone v Camberley; Wingate & Finchley v Clapton.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Ashford v Gloucester; Atherstone v Dorchester; Burton v Cambridge City; Cheltenham v Stittingbourne; Crawley v Halesowen Town; Gravesend v Salisbury; Hastings v Gresley; Merthyr Tydfil v King's Lynn; Newport AFC v Chelmsford; Sudbury Town v Nuneaton; Worcester v Bideford. Midland Division: Bedworth v Bilston; Corby v Moor Green; Dudley v Shepshed; Hinckley Town v VS Rugby; Leicester Utd v Stourbridge; Raunds v Tamworth; Redditch v Grantham; Rothwell v Paget; Solihull v Warwick; Stafford v Evesham; Sutton Coldfield v Ilkeston. Southern Division: Cinderford v Dartford; Orenoester v Newport IoW; Clevedon v Fisher; Erith & Belvedere v Forest Green; Fareham v Trowbridge; Fleet v Weston-super-Mare; Havant v Witney; Margate v Yate; Tonbridge v Bashley; Waterlooville v St Leonards; Weymouth v Buckingham Town.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Challenge Shield: Bamber Bridge v Hyde Utd.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Bury Town v Watton; Felixstowe v Sudbury Town; Hadleigh v Newmarket; Halstead v Marsh; Harwich v Great Yarmouth; Lowestoft v Warboys; Soham v Diss; Stowmarket v Fakenham; Tiptree v Sudbury Wanderers; Wisbech v Gorleston; Woodbridge v Wroxham.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Canterbury v Beckenham; Corinthian v Chatham; Cray v Hythe; Faversham v Herne Bay; Folkestone Invicta v Sheppey; Lordswood v Greenwich Borough; Slade Green v Furness; Tunbridge Wells v Crockenhill; Whitstable v Thamesmead; Woolwich v Deal.

UNLISPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston Town v Stotfold; Cogenhoe v Holbeach; Eynesbury v Stamford; Ford Sports v Newport Pagnell; Kempston v Wellingborough; Long Buckby v Potton; Mirrlees Blackstone v Desborough; Northampton Spencer v Bourne; Spalding v St Neots; Wootton v Stewarts and Lloyds Corby.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier League: Barnstaple v Backwell; Bridgwater v Calne; Bridport v Chippenham; Brislington v Tiverton; Bristol Manor Farm v Taunton; Elmore v Mangotsfield; Odd Down v Bideford; Torrington v Peulton; Westbury v Chard.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Atherton Collieries v Mossley; Blackpool Rovers v Kidsgrove; Bootle v Prescot; Chorley v Burscough; Clitheroe v Trafford; Glossop v Vauxhall GM; Maine Road v Darwen; Nantwich v Holker Old Boys; Newcastle Town v Rossendale; Penrith v Eastwood Hanley; St Helens v Salford.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Blakenall v West Midlands Police; Bloxwich v Rushall Olympic; Boldmere St Michaels v Sandwell Borough; Chasetown v Knypersley Victims; Hinckley Athletic v Willenhall; Oldbury v Stapenhill; Pelsall Villa v Halesowen Harriers; Pershore v Shifnal; Rocester v Barwell; Stratford v Bridgnorth.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Arundel v Ringmer; Hassocks v Peacehaven; Langney v Burgess Hill; Oakwood v Eastbourne Town; Pagham v Southwick; Portfield v Hailsham; Selsey v Nile Oak; Shoreham v Horsham YMCA; Three Bridges v Saltdean; Whitehawk v Wick.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedlington v South Shields; Crook v Consett; Guisborough v Durham; Morpeth v Billingham Synthonia; Murton v Chester-le-Street; RTM Newcastle v West Auckland; Seaham v Whickham; Shildon v Dunston; Stockton v Easington; Tow Law v Whitby.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Welshpool; Briton Ferry v Carmarthen; Caernarfon v Porthmadog; Caersws v Newtown; Cemaes Bay v Bangor City; Conwy v Rhyl; Cwmbran v Ebbw Vale; Holywell v Flint; Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff v Ton Pentre; Llansantffraid v Connah's Quay.

ULSTER CUP First round first leg: Ballyclare v Portadown; Ballymena v Crusaders; Bangor v Glentoran; Carrick v Ards; Distillery v Limfield; Larne v Cliftonville; Newry v Coleraine; Omagh v Glenavon.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND CUP First round: Cobh Ramblers v Kilkenny (7.0); Finn Harps v Derry City (7.30); Sligo v Fenad (7.30); Home Farm Everton v Shelbourne (7.30).

TENNENTS HIGHLAND LEAGUE CUP First round: Keith v Cove Rangers; Rothes v Fraserburgh; Deveronvale v Buckie Thistle; Peterhead v Huntly; Elgin City v Lossiemouth; Nairn County v Forres Mechanics; Brora Rangers v Fort William; Clachnacuddin v Wick Academy.

Rugby League
6.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v Paris; London v Wigan.

HALIFAX STUDENT RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP Pool B: N Zealand Students v W Samoa Students (6.30) (at Halifax). **Pool C:** England Students v France Students (3.0) (at Workington); Scotland Students v Japan Students (5.0) (at Warrington).

Rugby Union

DUNBLANE INTERNATIONAL
Scotland v Barbarians (3.0) ....
(at Murrayfield, Edinburgh)

Speedway
7.30 unless stated

PREMIER LEAGUE: Bradford v Sheffield; Cradley Heath & Stoke v Middlesbrough; Eastbourne v Scottish Monarchs.

SPEEDWAY STAR KNOCKOUT CUP Quarter-final first leg: Swindon v Exeter (8.0).

CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Berwick v Sheffield (5.0).

Other sports

BOWLS: Women's World Outdoor Championship (Leamington Spa).

EQUESTRIANISM: Derby meeting (Hickstead).

GOLF: Westaba Women's British Open (Woburn).

MOTORCYCLING: British Superbike Championship (Knockhill).

TOMORROW

Football

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND CUP First round: University College Galway v Limerick (3.15); University College Dublin v Bray Wanderers (3.15).

Rugby League
3.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Halifax (6.0); Leeds v Workington; St Helens v Sheffield (7.30). **First Division:** Dewsbury v Wakefield (3.30); Hull v Featherstone (6.0); Keighley v Widnes (3.30); Salford v Batley; Whitehaven v Rochdale (3.30). **Second Division:** Bramley v Doncaster (5.0); 13 Hull K R v Leigh (6.30); Hunslet v Carlisle (3.30); Prescot v York; Swinton v South Wales (6.30).

HALIFAX STUDENT RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP Pool A: Australia Students v Wales Students (at Leigh); South Africa Students v Russia Students (at Featherstone). **Pool B:** US Students v Ireland Students (6.0) (at Northampton).

Speedway

INDIVIDUAL SCOTTISH OPEN RIDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP (6.30) (at Glasgow).

CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Buxton v Arena Essex (3.0); Linlithgow v Sheffield (2.30); Stringbourne v Swindon (2.0).

Other sports

CYCLING: Leeds Classic.

EQUESTRIANISM: Derby meeting (Hickstead).

GOLF: Weetabix Women's British Open (Woburn).

MOTOR RACING: International Touring Car Championship (Silverstone).

MOTOR CYCLING: British Superbike Championship (Knockhill).

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Lomu waits for no one except the coach

David Daniels, in Durban, has seen the future of rugby – and it's all black

Jonah Lomu's intimidating presence on the New Zealand bench in Durban today, for the first in a three-Test series, may only be temporary, but the most unexpected sight in rugby is undeniable testimony to the All Black dominance of the world game. No other side would even contemplate leaving out a player of Lomu's frightening power. New Zealand, though, are in a league of their own.

Quite simply, Sean Fitzpatrick's 1996 side are the best international rugby side by a distance, and – whisper it extremely quietly, particularly in Twickenham's hallowed corridors – they are going to get even better. The northern hemisphere game is already struggling to keep pace with their southern counterparts. But it is not just the politically racked Five Nations who are losing the fight. Australia and South Africa had manfully attempted to compete with New Zealand in the inaugural Tri-Nations tournament over the past six weeks.

That they both failed in every department of the flowing, surging play that seems so alien to European sides is further proof of what everybody really knew a little over a year ago. Then, just days after blowing apart Jack Rowell's tactically naïve England in the World Cup semi-final, the All Blacks somehow contrived to lose the final to South Africa.

The New Zealand coach at the time, Laurie Mains, carried the can for misjudging a plan that should have taken apart a workmanlike Springbok team. His successor, John Hart, is not so prone to benevolent behaviour. Hart had an indirect role to play in New Zealand's success in the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987: as coach of the provincial giants of the time, Auckland, he shaped players the calibre of Joe Stanley, Grant Fox and John Kirwan. Brian Lochore, the then All Black coach, acknowledged Hart's part in the World Cup build-up by appointing him assistant coach.

Leading up to the 1991 World Cup, Hart was brought in as a late coaching aide to Alex Wyllie in the hope of stopping the All Blacks' spiral downwards. The coaches and the players failed, being shown the exit in the semi-final.

After three unsuccessful applications, Hart was finally given the All Black coaching job, on his own, late last year, and his 1996 model looks headed for fame to match their new-found professional fortune. That they have three survivors from the '87 side, Fitzpatrick, Michael Jones and Zinzan Brooke – all Aucklanders – is proof of the continuity that has run through the New Zealand game.

Fitzpatrick admitted: "I always believed I would never play in a better team than 1987, but now I'm not so sure. This team has so many things going for it that I would have to rate them a shade better. Now we have so many talented players in so many different positions with the ability to adapt to every situation. We didn't have that in '87.

"Our backs, in particular, have the pace and flair to cut through any defence, and that gives us the edge. We won two close games in recent weeks, coming from behind to beat Australia and then, last week, to storm through to a last-quarter victory over South Africa. That says volumes for our ability to stay cool under pressure and get the job done even when the clock is running down. I'd like to think we will get even better."

Hart is just as complimentary. "I guess until this side wins the World Cup people everywhere will always give the '87 side the nod. I suppose that's fair enough. In the modern-day game, results seem to be all-important. Personally, I'm not convinced they are the be-all and end-all.

"I think it's more important the way you win. The manner of your approach says everything about your philosophy in the game. We try to play to our strength, which means letting the ball get out wide when the opportunity arises. That's probably why we've managed to win a couple of tight games that lesser sides would probably have lost.

"I agree with Sean that this side can get better. A lot of our players, like Andrew Mehrtens, Christian Cullen and Josh Kronfeld, are still young guys. We have other good young players coming through so the future is very bright." Then, of course, there is always Lomu. As the rest of world rugby already realises, the giant wing will not be sitting it out for very long.

Townsend giving the orders at stand-off

Bill Leith previews a sports occasion of celebration and remembrance

One of the most poignant occasions in the history of Scottish sport will unfold today at Murrayfield, where a crowd of around 30,000 is expected to watch a Scotland XV take on the Barbarians to honour the memory of 16 children and their teacher killed by a gunman at Dunblane Primary School earlier this year.

Of all the projects undertaken by the Scottish Rugby Union, few could have been so demanding as arranging an event in which a balance has had to be struck between a celebration of sport and remembering the dead. In the circumstances, the talk of any early-season benefits to the team that this game will provide in the implications of investing the captaincy in Gregor Townsend seems slightly callous.

But sport would be futile without some kind of competitive edge, and Charlie Laidlaw, of the SRU, has stressed that all the organising has taken place in conjunction with the Dunblane community, among whom the Scottish team completed preparations at the local high school yesterday. Townsend said the exercise, which attracted a crowd of 500, had proved beneficial in terms of putting the game into perspective. Townsend will play at stand-off as opposed to the centre position he occupied for much of last season with Northampton.

Jim Telfer, who is standing down as team manager to concentrate on his duties as director of rugby, is among the officials who have been insisting all week that the Barbarians, drawn from eight countries and brought together at short notice, represent a realistic test.

The assistant coach, David Johnston, recalled yesterday that in previous trips to Murrayfield the Barbarians had thrown up hitherto unknown talents such as the Springboks Danie Gerber and Andre Joubert. This time it could be the turn of the Argentinian scrum-half Augustin Pichot, who is linked with a move to Leicester.

Scott Hastings today will be playing for the first time against his older brother Gavin, who has emerged from representative retirement – and a career in American football – to boost the "names" in the Barbarian side, which also includes the former All Black No 8 Arran Pene.

SCOTLAND: R Shepherd; D Stark (both Melrose), S Hastings (Watsonians), R Eriksson (London Scottish), K Logan (Stirling County); G Townsend (Northampton, capt), G Armstrong (Newcastle); D Hilton (Bath), G Ellis (Currie), P Wright (Melrose), D Cronin (Wasps), G Weir (Newcastle), B Renwick (Hawick), E Peters (Bath), I Smith (Gloucester).

BARBARIANS: G Hastings (Scot, capt); A Bose (Fiji), Y Motoki (Japan), A McCormack (NZ), T Underwood (Eng); P Howard (Aus), A Pichot (Arg); G Roundtree, R Cockrill, D Garforth (all Eng), R McCall (Aus), P Johns (Ire), M Gasosa (Fiji), A Pene (NZ), I Morrison (Scot).

Offiah wants to spoil Wigan party

Rugby League
DAVE HADFIELD

Martin Offiah will deny himself a Stones Super League Championship medal today if he can inspire his team, the London Broncos, to beat his former team-mates from Wigan.

Offiah played enough games before his transfer to qualify for the medal, but defeat at The Valley this evening will mean that any honours for Wigan will be the hollow and unfamiliar ones accorded to the runners-up. Indeed, if Wigan lose today and St Helens beat the Sheffield Eagles tomorrow, the title will have been decided.

Shaun McRae, the Saints coach, is one who does not expect it to work out that way. "We are expecting Wigan to win both their remaining games, which means that we have to win both ours."

Nevertheless, London at The Valley are a formidable proposition, and they already possess the psychological edge of having taken a potentially crucial point from Wigan at Central Park.

It is the manner of that draw, rather than any trepidation at facing Offiah, which most concerns the Wigan coach, Graeme West. "They got away with slowing the game down that day, which makes a mockery of the way in which it is supposed to be played these days," West said. "I just hope they don't get away with as much this time."

Tulsen Tollett, the Broncos' newly selected Great Britain squad member, does not believe there will be a repeat of London's tactics. "The crowd weren't very happy about it, and I've spoken to a few of the Wigan players at the Great Britain meeting this week and I know they weren't too happy about it, either," Tollett said.

"But I don't think we'll go about it the same way, because they would be expecting it this time."

The London coach, Tony Currie, offers no apologies for upsetting Wigan. "There is no rule in rugby league that says every game has to be played in the way that suits Wigan's taste," he said.

"Wigan wear down sides who lack fitness, but now we are as fit as them, as strong as them and – with the addition of Offiah and our new centre David Krause – as fast as them. At a conservative estimate there will be 10,000 people there, but all the pressure will be on Wigan, not us."

Currie is without the winger, Scott Roskell, and his loose forward and the captain, Terry Matterson, but Gavin Allen is fit to resume. West still has to decide whether to restore Shaun Edwards to his starting line-up or to carry on with Craig Murdock at scrum-half.

Hull's Glen Liddiard has failed in his appeal against a two-match ban and misses their two remaining games of the season. John Atkinson, the former Leeds and Great Britain player, has been appointed as an extra member of the disciplinary panel.

British trio banned by Australians

Great Britain's autumn trip Down Under is in deeper trouble after the Australian Rugby League yesterday announced a complete ban on their players from taking part in tour matches.

The move follows the ARL's earlier refusal to release the Wigan pair Gary Connolly and Jason Robinson and the Newcastle Knights' Lee Jackson to play for the Lions.

Centre Connolly and winger Robinson, named in the Lions' 32-strong party earlier this week, have both signed future contracts with the ARL, who are in dispute with the worldwide Super League organisation.

Now ARL officials say no New Zealand players under contract to the organisation will be released to play against the tourists. New Zealand, a Super League ally, have several players affected by the ARL's decision, including Jason Lowrie, Dave Watson, Gary Freeman, Jarrod McCracken and Craig Innes.

"All the players have individual contracts with us that stipulate they can only play in ARL-sanctioned matches," said an ARL spokesman, John Brady.

The move appears to be something of a tit-for-tat after the Super League refused to release contracted players for two scheduled Tests between Australia and New Zealand in June.

Eight Super League players, including the internationals Laurie Daley and Andrew Ettinghausen, withdrew from the series, forcing the ARL to cancel the games.

The Rugby Football League chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, has vowed to fight the ban on the two Wigan players from tour of New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. "We will obviously have to refer the matter to our own lawyers because the situation is not as simple as the Australians would have everyone believe."

Emilee Klein fires out of the bunker at the 14th in the second round yesterday — Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

Klein's Divine route into lead

Golf
TIM GLOVER reports from Woburn

What any professional sport craves is television coverage. A few years back the ladies held a pro tournament over the Duke's course here in wind and rain and the TV pictures were a disaster for their game. They showed players taking an age to reach the green and racking up scores that would have been an embarrassment to a club golfer.

Yesterday the pictures told a different story. The girls were out in shorts, visors and sunglasses (shorts are not permitted in the men's game) and were hitting the Duke's with birdies and eagles in the second round of the Weetabix British Open which has attracted more than 20,000 spectators in two days. A measure of the improvement in the health of the European Tour is that the prize-money for the tournament, £500,000, is greater than the purse sometimes played for in events on the men's professional circuit.

And leading the rush by a handsome margin for the first prize of £80,000 at the half-way stage was another refreshing figure, Emilee Klein. Klein, 22 from Santa Monica, California, is typical of the new breed entering what is becoming a lucrative business.

Her father, an insurance agent, encouraged Emilee to play golf from the age of nine and she found it more interesting than other Californian pursuits like surfing and beach volleyball. "For some reason my dad knew what it would take to be a good golfer and he helped me on my training," she said. "It is one of those games that you have to take up when you are young if you want to be a great player. You can be a good player if you take it up when you are older but it is not as easy. I picked it up pretty naturally."

By the time she was 14 she was the state amateur champion and was playing practice rounds with Tiger Woods. She turned professional after being named Collegiate Player of the Year in 1994. Last season she won nearly $180,000 (£116,000) and last week gained her maiden victory, the Ping Welch's Championship in Massachusetts, beating Karrie Webb into second place.

Yesterday Klein added a 66 to a 68 and, at 12 under par for the tournament, she leads Webb, Annika Sorenstam and Alison Nicholas by five strokes. Klein has five woods in her bag – a driver, 3,4,7 (called the Heaven 7) and 9 (called the Divine 9). "They are easier to hit than irons and I can get so much more height," she said. Klein used the Divine 9 wood off the tee at the 175 yards 11th hole and rolled in a 35-foot putt for a two, her fourth two of the round and a full house on the par threes.

Apart from cramming her bag with woods, she is also a self-confessed shoe collector. Her caddie is tired of bearing the burden so this week she has packed only 12 pairs of assorted footwear. "I don't know how many pairs I've got altogether," Klein said, "but I'm gaining on Imelda Marcos." The other thing about Klein is that she does not keep her caddie at arm's length.

The poor chap who carries her bag is her boyfriend, Kenny Harms. When they take a holiday they play golf. He was her caddie before becoming her boyfriend. "Once in a while we have an argument, usually about the way I'm thinking," Klein, who wears the shorts, said. "It can be difficult but we have learned how to make it work. Having him as my boyfriend I get a lot more support than I did when he was just my caddie. He wants me to play better for more reasons than one but you have to learn how to separate business from pleasure." She has already given him a pay increase, matching a counter-offer.

Laura Davies, the world No 1, made the half-way cut, but only just, following a 75 that leaves her 13 shots adrift of the leader. "Two more days of misery," Davies, who invariably finds Woburn as straitlaced as a corset, remarked. "This course scares me too much. It's not the course's fault. I just can't sort it out." Davies, who began the first round as 9-2 favourite, is now 33-1 with Klein installed as evens favourite to win the biggest tournament in Europe.

Lendl improves but goes out

Peter Mitchell shares the lead with Scotland's Dean Robertson on 135, seven under par, after a second-round 65 at the Chemapol Czech Open at Marianske Lazne, but the former world No 1 tennis player, Ivan Lendl, missed the cut after shooting a respectable five-over-par 76.

Lendl, playing in his first-ever PGA European Tour event at the invitation of the sponsors, was unhappy with his first-round 82 yesterday but yesterday's effort was far more satisfactory.

It left him on 158, 16 over par for the two rounds, but he said: "It was as good as I could expect after having a triple bogey seven at the third hole in both rounds. I have no regrets about playing here at all for it was a great experience for me."

Skelton closes on rare double

Equestrianism
GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Hickstead

Nick Skelton rode the speedy mare, Sublime, to win yesterday's Silk Cut Derby Trial, defeating his long-standing friend and Olympic team-mate, Michael Whitaker on Touchdown, by a 2.29sec margin. Michel Robert, of France, filled third place on Degina.

Though Skelton has won the Silk Cut Derby on three occasions, this was his first success in the Trial. Only once has the same rider won the two competitions and that was back in 1979 when Eddie Macken completed the double for Ireland.

Skelton is not, however, bothered about the so-called jinx. "It shouldn't be a problem," he said, with a grin, after his victory. If he can win tomorrow on either Sublime or Cathleen (with whom he completed a slow clear round in yesterday's jump-off) Skelton will collect £40,000 for the Derby victory and a bonus of £5,000 for winning the Trial as well.

Whitaker will also be riding two horses tomorrow – both of them borrowed. James Kernan's stallion Touchdown, with whom he was first into yesterday's jump-off, achieved two clear rounds and was impressive except for some ominous dithering on the 10ft 6in Derby Bank.

His second mount was Gammon, normally ridden by either his brother, John, or his niece, Louise. Michael had his first ride on Gammon yesterday morning, when he jumped six fences in an outside arena on the 18-year-old gelding.

He then jumped a clear round in the Derby Trial and, having lowered the second jump-off fence, had a quiet school over the rest of the course.

TODAY'S NUMBER

6

Great Britain were announced yesterday as having finished sixth in athletics at the Atlanta Olympics, with 68 points calculated on the basis of medals in finals. The United States were first with 249 points. Britain's men finished fourth overall, and the women 11th.

SPORTING DIGEST

Fogerty sits out of the rain

Motorcycling

Carl Fogarty sat out yesterday afternoon's opening qualifying session for round eight of Sunday's World Superbike Championship in Sentul, Indonesia, after torrential rain and thunderstorms made it a lottery.

"Going out today was a pointless exercise for me," said Fogarty, who set the fastest time of 1min 29.376sec in the morning's practice session.

"If it rains today, then I'll have to go out in the final qualifying session, but I'll take my chance."

Australia's Kirk McCarthy is in provisional pole position while Mike Hale was another of the handful of riders who braved the conditions to take second place ahead of Aaron Slight.

"I was undecided about going out but it's probably better that I clocked a time just in case the weather gets worse," Slight said.

Mixed fortunes for England

Hockey

England's men collected their first points in the Volvo Masters Four Nations Under-21 tournament yesterday when they beat the Netherlands 2-1, while the women dropped their first points in a 2-1 defeat to the Dutch, writes Bill Colwill in Vught, Netherlands.

In an ill-tempered and niggly game Alistair Boyse, exchanging passes with Manpreet Kochar, put England ahead in the 45th minute. Jochem Haverman equalised for the Dutch before David Matthews scored the winner from the penalty after Mark Pearn had been floored by the Dutch Olympic gold medallist Bram Lomas in the 67th minute.

Careless defending cost England's women whose only goal came in the final minute from Jo Fletcher, following up at a penalty corner.

Athletics
Katherine Merry, who reached the second round of the 200 metres at the Olympics, has cut short her season to have a second operation on her left knee.

Australian Rules
AFL: Melbourne 13.14 (92) bt Fremantle 10.11 (71).

Baseball
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 18 Oakland 5.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 3 San Diego 2; Philadelphia 5 Atlanta 8; Florida 7 Montreal 6; Los Angeles 5 St Louis 2. Postponed: Pittsburgh v San Francisco.

Basketball
London Towers have signed the England international guard, Karl Brown, from their East London rivals Leopards.

Bowls
WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Leamington Spa) 12th round: Singles, section 1: Botswana (B Anderson) bt US (R Benaree) 25-11; Zambia (M Lika) bt Argentina (M Vasquez) 25-20; Netherlands (M Taylor) bt New Zealand (J Howe) 25-20; Israel (M Swerdlow) bt Scotland (J Lindores) 25-20; Ireland (M Johnston) bt Fiji (L Tikoca-ua) 25-14; England (W Line) bt Malaysia (N Ismail) 25-12; Kenya (M Burns) bt Namibia (J Joubert) 25-23; Zimbabwe (C Howard Williams) bt Cook Islands (D Pentani) 25-21. Section 2: Singapore (R Pereira) bt Spain (D Ines) 25-23; Jersey (V Steed) bt Western Samoa (M Poma) 25-22; Norfolk Island (C Anderson) bt Swaziland (L Hlanze) 25-20; Australia (W Fong) bt Canada (A Hinds) 25-20; Wales (R Jones) bt Hong Kong (H Chau) 25-15; Papua New Guinea (L K Okalu) bt Japan (N Yoshimoto) 25-2. Fours; section 1: Botswana bt Swaziland 21-19; Singapore bt Hong Kong 24-10; England (H Shaw, J Baker, G Fugerald, N Price) bt Netherlands 31-11; Ireland (P Mackie, C O Gormain, H Taylor, P Nolan) bt Malaysia 29-12; Scotland (M Lathern, J Forrest, B Forsyth, S Gourlay) bt US 29-8; Zambia bt Kenya 31-17; Israel bt Cook Islands 24-13. Section 2: Fiji bt Argentina 26-18; Norfolk Island bt Jersey (S Noel, R Hammer, J Jones, S Synred) 23-15; Papua New Guinea bt Western Samoa 34-24; Australia bt Namibia 24-15; New Zealand bt Spain 35-7; Guernsey (J Simon, J Martel, S Paul, J Nicolle) bt India 30-14; Canada bt Japan 35-10.

Boxing
Herol Graham has been cleared to fight again by the British Boxing Board of Control. The former world middleweight title fighter, 37 next month, has not fought since losing his British title to Frank Grant at Elland Road in 1992.

Cricket
Shane Warne has withdrawn from Australia's scheduled tour to Sri Lanka after failing to recover from finger surgery in time.
Yorkshire's 21-year-old fast bowler, Chris Silverwood, has been voted Young Cricketer of the Year by members of the Cricket Writers' Club.

Equestrianism
SILK CUT DERBY MEETING (Hickstead, Sussex): Silk Cut Derby Trial: 1 Sublime (N Skelton, GB) clear, 48.20sec; 2 Touchdown (M Whitaker, GB) clear, 50.48; 3 Degina (M Robert, Fr) clear, 50.52; 4 Tiagi Intersevo (T Sandiella, GB) clear, 51.86; 5 Cathleen (N Skelton, GB) clear, 57.58; 6 Millstreet Ruby (Comte G Mullins, Ire) 4 faults, 53.60.

Football
Kenny Dixon, the former England striker, still under contract at Watford, is considering a move to Third Division Doncaster, who hope to sign him in time to play in Tuesday's Coca-Cola Cup-tie against York.
Tony Fitzpatrick will today begin his second spell in charge of St Mirren as caretaker manager, following the resignation of Jimmy Bone this week.
Diego Maradona, currently undergoing drug rehabilitation at a clinic in Switzerland, will be playing in an exhibition game in Toronto later this month with his brother Lalo, who plays for Toronto Italia of the Canadian National Soccer League.
TRANSFER TRIBUNAL FEES: Pete Dwyer (Leyton Orient) to Aldershot (£18,000); Mark Cowan (Barnet) to Aldershot (£17,000); Willie Irvine (Barnet) to Aldershot (£9,000); Craig Valentine (Berwick) to Alloa (£24,000); Alan Banks (Berwick) to Stenhousemuir (£14,000); Ken Eadie (Clydebank) to Arbroath (£15,000).
MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: New York/New Jersey MetroStars 4 New England Revolution 0; Columbus Crew 2 Dallas Burn 2 (Columbus won shoot-out 3-2); Kansas City Wiz 4 San Jose Clash 1.

Golf
WEETABIX WOMEN'S BRITISH OPEN (Woburn): Early leading second-round scores (GB or Ire unless stated): 134 E Klein (US) 68 66. 139 A Nicholas 68 71; A Sorenstam (Swe) 69 70; K Webb (Aus) 69 70. 140 M Hjorth (Swe) 70 70; T Hresko (US) 70 70; R Jones 69 71; L Hackney 71 69. 141 J Lutcach (Peru) 68 73; P Hammel (US) 71 70; J Pace (US) 68 73; C Johnson (US) 72 69; K Yamazaki (Japan) 71 70. 142 A Alcott (US) 72 70; D Reid 68 74. 143 *B Hacker 72 71; K Parker-Gregory (US) 70 73; L Brodey (NZ) 70 73; T Fischer (Ger) 72 71; K Marshall 71 72; D Pepper (US) 72 72. 144 D Rehaet (US) 71 73; H Kobayashi (Japan) 71 73; V Goetze (US) 74 70; L Navarro (Sp) 73 71; C Matthew 71 73; C Roch (Swe) 73 71; B Mucha (US) 73 71. 146 S Farwig (US) 70 76; D Andrews (US) 80 66; M Bentzen (US) 73 73; E Orley (Swe) 73 72; T Abdbol (Sp) 70 76; P Bradley (US) 70 76; J Geddes (US) 72 73; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69 76.
* denotes amateur

SPRINT INTERNATIONAL (Castle Rock, Colorado): Leading first-round point scores (US unless stated): 23 R Freeman; J Gallagher. 11 M Reid; K Perry. 10 G Sauers; S Hoch; J Cook; W Austin; T Watson. 9 P Burke; L Parker, J Carter; B R Brown; J Huston; S Jones; M Bradley. 8 G Boros; R Estes; S Jurgensen; J Inman. 7 G Norman (Aus); B Ogilvie (Aus); P O'Malley (Aus). 6 N Faldo (GB); J Parnevik (Swe). 3 E Els (SA). S Lyle (GB), S Appleby (Aus). (Spts for eagle, 2 for birdie, 0 for par, -1 for bogey, -3 for double bogey or worse. 21 players unable to complete round due to weather delays).

Hockey
VOLVO MASTERS UNDER 21 TOURNAMENT (Vught, Netherlands): Third play: Women: England 1 Netherlands 2; South Africa 1 Germany 1. Men: England 2 Netherlands 1; Germany 1 Pakistan 2.

Rugby League
John Atkinson, the former Leeds and Great Britain winger who is a sergeant in the West Yorkshire Police, has been appointed to the Rugby Football League's disciplinary committee.
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Auckland Warriors 18 Canterbury 20.

Rugby Union
Saracens have signed the Irish wing Richard Wallace. The 28-year-old joins his brother Paul, the Irish prop, at the Courage League One club, who will be employing 15 to 20 players in a full or part-time capacity next season.
Moseley have offered a one-year contract to the former Great Britain sprinter Jason John. The Birchfield Harrier has decided to switch sports after being left out of the Atlanta Olympics squad.

Speedway
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Premier League: Ipswich 50 Wolverhampton 46; Middlesbrough 61 Scottish Monarchs 35; Sheffield 53 Poole 43. Speedway Star Knock-Out Cup quarter-final, first Leg: London 51 Peterborough 45.

Swimming
Hungary's five-times Olympic gold medallist, Krisztina Egerszegi, announced her retirement from top-flight competition on her 22nd birthday yesterday.

Tennis
RCA CHAMPIONSHIPS (Indianapolis) Men's singles, third round: P Sampras (US) bt M Ondruska (SA) 6-1 6-2; G Ivanisevic (Croat) bt P Korda (Cz Rep) 6-3 6-3; T Enqvist (Swe) bt D Wheaton (US) 6-4 6-3; T Martin (US) bt C Woodruff (US) 6-2 6-3; L Roux (Fr) bt S Edberg (Swe) 6-3 6-4; T Haas (Ger) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 7-6 6-2; A Corretja (S) bt R Reneberg (US) 6-3 6-7 6-2; B Unkrich (Cz Rep) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-2 6-2.
PILOT PEN INTERNATIONAL (Connecticut) Men's singles, third round: Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-1 6-4; R Krajicek (Neth) bt P Rafter (Aus) 6-4 6-7 7-5; W Ferreira (SA) bt A Chesnokov (Rus) 6-2 6-0; M Rosset (Swit) bt L Burgsmuller (Ger) 7-5 7-6; J Siemerink (Neth) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-4 6-3; D Vacek (Cz Rep) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-1 6-1; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt J Courier (US) 7-6 7-6; A O'Brien (US) bt C Adams (US) 6-3 2-6 6-2.
ACURA WOMEN'S CLASSIC (California) Singles, third round: A Huber (Ger) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-1 6-7 6-2; K Date (Japan) bt S Testud (Fr) 1-6 6-3 7-5; L Davenport (US) bt N Zvereva (Belar) 7-5 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) bt Sin-Ting Wang (Tai) 6-2 6-1; I Spirlea (Rom) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-4 6-2; K Habsudova (Slovak) bt K Po (US) 6-2 6-3. Quarter-finals: S Graf (Ger) bt A Frazier (US) 6-3 6-2.
LTA SUMMER SATELLITE (Worthing) Men's singles, semi-finals (GB unless stated): T Spradbery (GB) bt P Hand (GB) 6-4 3-6 6-0; A Foster (GB) bt C Singer (US) 6-2 6-7 6-3.

EVENING RACING RESULTS

HAYDOCK

6.40: 1. REAGANESQUE (S Drowne) 4-1; 2. Canton Venture 3-1 fav; 3. Far Ahead 9-2. 6 ran. ½, hd. (P Murphy). Tote: £3.80; £2.20, £1.70. DF: £3.60. CSF: £15.03.

6.10: 1. RELIQUARY (Pat Eddery) 4-6 fav; 2. Calina Red 3-1; 3. Tombe 16-1. 9 ran. 2, 2½. (D Loder). Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £1.80. CSF: £3.42. Tno: £8.80.

6.40: 1. GENERAL GLOW (J F Egan) 15-8 fav; 2. Monte Cavo 20-1; 3. Minster Glory 11-1. 7 ran. 1¾, 2½. (P Evans). Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £6.50. DF: £36.30. CSF: £27.87.

7.10: 1. BOLD AFRICAN (J F Egan) 11-2; 2. Smokey From Copiaw 20-1; 3. Divide And Rule 12-1. 9 ran. 3-1 fav Sous Le Nez (4th). 1¼, ½. (P Evans). Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £4.20, £3.40. DF: £87.10. CSF: £84.33. Tricast: £809.67. Tno: £271.20.

CATTERICK

5.55: 1. GOLD BLADE (Ms L Pearce) 10-11 fav; 2. Don't Drop Bombs 7-2; 3. Never Time 16-1. 8 ran. 1½, 1½. (J Pearce). Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.80, £3.30. Dual Forecast: £2.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £4.50. Tricast: £25.06.

6.25: 1. ABSTONE QUEEN (J Fortune) 6-4; 2. Norbreck House 11-8 fav; 3. Silver Raj 12-1. 7 ran. 4, hd. (P Evans). Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £1.30. CSF: £3.39. Kitty Gizlore (6-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in the pound.

6.55: 1. PERFECT BLISS (R French) 2-1; 2. Nant Y Gamer 5-1; 3. Jeffrey Aosthorred 7-4 fav. 8 ran. sht-hd, 2½. (P Evans). Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £1.80, £1.50. Dual Forecast: £7.00. Computer Straight Forecast: £12.38. Tricast: £18.81.

■ Malcolm Jefferson's highly-talented Dato Star has recovered from injury and the Malton trainer is aiming to go one better with the five-year-old in the November Handicap. The gelding was second in the final big handicap of the Flat season at Doncaster, beaten by Snow Princess after meeting trouble in running. Malton-based Jefferson revealed he has already secured Kieren Fallon for the Tote Credit-sponsored renewal on 9 November. "Kieren's been booked since last year – as soon as he got off he said he'd like the ride again and all we wanted this time was softer ground. "Dato Star needs some give otherwise they can go too quick for him. He's the type who comes with a long, sustained run."

Gullit promises a thoughtful revolution

Glenn Moore meets the new manager with a mission to make multinational Chelsea both sophisticated and successful

Kharin, Johnsen, Leboeuf, Clarke, Petrescu, Gullit, Di Matteo, Wise, Phelan, Hughes, Vialli. Eleven names, 10 nationalities. One team?

Getting Chelsea's polyglot collection to blend is Ruud Gullit's task for the season, beginning with tomorrow's match against Southampton at The Dell. A taxing one, surely, even for a such a gifted multilingual communicator. It did not appear to worry the Dutchman unduly when we met over lunch this week. "I am very relaxed," he said. "I will not know how different it is being a manager until we lose a match. Then I will see if I can cope with it."

In the flesh, Gullit is just as engaging and expansive as he appears on television. He also has presence, that indefinable something which marks someone out from the crowd. Add the respect earned by his achievements, and you have a formidable combination.

> 'These are not Continental ideas, these are my own ideas. I have my experience and I want to use that'

It needs to be – Gullit has introduced afternoon training at Chelsea (as well as the customary morning session). While a common enough practice abroad, it is rare here and not many managers would risk such a drastic change to players' routines.

However, he is not, he insists, looking to change all English habits overnight. To illustrate, he referred to an incident during the recent Umbro Cup, when Chelsea played on Saturday and Sunday.

"After the first match I allowed them a beer. They did not ask for it but I said if someone wants a beer they can have one. On a normal Saturday they would have a beer. It depends on how you drink them, it is not so good if you have a lot of them but if you have a beer with your food it is OK. Everyone knows if you do not eat the proper things and drink the proper things you will get tired.

"Last year I told them what I was used to and they know I won all these things. I am not demanding things of them but now some players do it [change their eating and drinking habits] by themselves – some won't because they are used to it. That is OK. Everybody has their own way, but they must know their limits.

"These are not Continental ideas, they are my own ideas. I have my experience, I have played under many good managers, and I want to use that on the team." Those managers form quite a masterclass – Rinus Michels, Johan Cruyff, Wim van Hanegem, Arrigo Sacchi, Fabio Capello, Sven Goran Eriksson and Glenn Hoddle.

Sacchi's influence is clear in the way Gullit is looking to encourage a sense of responsibility on the field. Chelsea frequently lost leads last season and Gullit and Graham Rix, the first-team coach, have been busy both improving fitness and emphasising the need for discipline.

"It is the 'what if' principle," Rix said. "We want players to ask 'what if we lose the ball now – will I be in a position to do something about it?'. We want to play good, attacking football but we won't, for example, have both wing-backs bombing on at once so often."

"I want players to think first of what they can do for the team," Gullit added. "Everybody has an assignment. They have one for when we don't have the ball and one for when we do. It is like the pieces in a clock. If one piece is wrong, the clock does not work.

"It was the same with Milan. Every day the same thing, every day your assignment. The team move like that, the team move like that, the team move like that," Gullit said, stressing the repetition. "All of a sudden you could dream it, without thinking you did it. Then, when you had the ball you could explore yourself because you were not thinking about it. Then you make a dummy, you score a goal, everybody is happy. Simple, really – but only after the hard work has been put in.

"In the Umbro Cup, I let them play two different styles, each with their own assignments, and it worked for them," Gullit added. "So it is now easier for me as a coach to change things, they will accept it more easily. First you have to prove it works."

Shades here of the England players walking off the pitch after they had beaten the Netherlands in the European Championship. They exclaimed, in near awe, that everything Terry Venables had predicted would happen if they performed their own specific tasks had happened.

Gullit, when he recovers from last week's minor leg operation, will play in midfield. Chelsea are likely to play an adaptation of Glenn Hoddle's 3-5-2, though Gullit is still tinkering.

"I have to see in which formation they play the best," he said. "It was the same with Milan. Milan started with 4-3-3, then [Marco] van Basten was injured and we had to change something. It was against Verona, we played 4-4-2 and we played so good it was 'ah, we've found it'. The same with Chelsea, I want to see what they do the best. Being injured, though not good for me as a player, is good for me to see where I need to attend to things in the team. The team are more important than myself.

"This season is starting a new adventure. Every season excites me but this one is different. There is more to do, more everything. You must always look for challenges in life otherwise you will get bored."

Much of Gullit's positive approach comes from his father, who emigrated to the Netherlands from Surinam, where Gullit was born. "He worked during the day and went to night school for eight years," Gullit said. "It was not easy. He told me that to achieve things I would also have to work hard.

"The most important thing is talent, whether you are black or white. I was aware that I was black but for me it was a stimulation. If I played with 10 white guys and I was the only black guy, everybody would look at me and for me that was an advantage. If you feel attacked by the way you are different, you have a problem. You have to be positive.

"Sometimes with Milan they whistled at me when I was on the ball, but I took it as a compliment. I said: 'You are so afraid of me.' It made me feel good. You have to be positive because nobody is going to resolve it for you."

That can-do philosophy has taken Gullit a long way. He has won European Cups with his club, European Championships with his country. What will be success with Chelsea?

"If I see on the faces of the players that they are enjoying what they do, then I have achieved what I want." A noble ambition, but hardly enough to satisfy Chelsea's supporters and board. However, if the team are enjoying themselves it is likely to be reflected in their results.

> 'I want my players to think first of what they can do for the team. Everybody has an assignment'

Pre-season went well enough, Chelsea beating everyone from Ajax to Sampdoria. The new players have been encouraged to mix with English-speaking team-mates, even Gianluca Vialli having to share a room – despite offering to pay the extra to have his own. Vialli has also negotiated the customary exclusive tabloid contract – he must have been short of a few bob – and appears to be settling as well in London as Gullit.

"London is good for everything," Gullit said. "There are a lot of celebrities living here and people leave you alone. In Italy I had a lot of admiration, which is good, but they also affect your life. I have time to go to the shop and buy something now. In Italy I had to go to the front of the store and rush out. I am not complaining about it, but as a person I also desire sometimes to just go walking on a street, or sit on a terrace and watch the people go by. Here I can do that."

Ruud Gullit: 'Being injured, though not good for me as a player, is good for me to see to where I need to attend to things in the team' Photograph: Robert Hallam

Triumph and trauma at end of Brighton pier

FAN'S EYE VIEW
No 149: SKY TV
Simon Carroll

Sky TV has certainly had a major impact on the life of the football supporter over the past few years. A private recreation – watching a match in the comfort of your own home – has entered the public sphere. Those of us for whom football sometimes reaches the point of obsession are now compelled to enter a cold, wet and miserable world in search of the beautiful game.

As an addict of televised football, such is my lot. No longer can I sink in front of my TV at home on a Sunday afternoon, bottle of lukewarm beer in hand, and rant and rave to my heart's content. These days, compulsive viewing takes the ritualised form of visits to the pub, on Brighton's Palace Pier in my case, in search of Sky TV's live coverage.

The glories of the European Championship may somehow have allowed football to penetrate the national consciousness and come home, but the new season brings a return to the big blue world and the bar stool for many supporters. Yet do I and others like me receive any reward for my dedication? No, just derisive cries of "armchair supporter" from those glory, glory boys who frequent the terraces.

For the devoted such as myself, last weekend's clash between Manchester United and Newcastle offered a return to normality after a close season of scanning the back pages and Teletext for transfer speculation and days of DIY: a pointless existence. However, from last Sunday, I was once again thrown into battling along the seafront, through the hordes of day-trippers, loving couples and rollerbladers, come rain, shine or hurricane to see the twin towers of the Palace Pier beckoning on the horizon. It may not be Wembley but it is a home fixture. All those dreams of total football and hopes of silverware are fired once more and the belief that "our name" is written on the cup is born again.

A televised football match can assume the role of an event as games are turned into social occasions watched with friends. Hair of the dog, friendly banter and the elixir of football are mixed into a heady cocktail of entertainment. Of course, it can be fraught with problems as heads bob up and down in front of the television screen, sending you straining and squirming in a desperate attempt to see the action, but it does offer great rewards.

Who can forget the pulsating Liverpool-Newcastle game of last season? Or the sight of friends, such as my mate Denis, with head in his hands, as Fowler scored yet again against his beloved Arsenal?

Then there was the experience of two years ago, when Manchester United lost the title on the final day of the season, and I half expected to see their supporters throwing themselves, lemming-like, into the sea as they left the pub in misery. More mundanely, if everything has turned sour by the final whistle, you can always comfort yourself with a consolation prize at the bar.

Yes, the big kick-off is nearly here. I have, of course, indulged myself in some pre-season training which has consisted of picking several Fantasy Football teams. Yet this has led to a rising sense of frustration as, after having studied my team, I would have to be richer than Jack Walker to win the Premiership. This appears to be extremely unlikely under the present circumstances and I am not keen on paying £4m for Stuart Pearce in fantasy money, let alone cold cash.

The new season is dripping with promise following the European Championship and last season's Premiership, which was undoubtedly the most entertaining for many years. If you add exotic new names such as Di Matteo, Ravanelli and Emerson to the recipe, you have a truly mouth-watering prospect for the coming winter.

Cue fanfare, mine's a pint and, as Ruud Gullit might say, "Bring on the sexy game."

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

TODAY
3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
1 Arsenal v West Ham
2 Blackburn v Tottenham
3 Coventry v Nottm Forest
4 Derby v Leeds
5 Everton v Newcastle
6 Middlesbrough v Liverpool
7 Sheffield Wed v Aston Villa
8 [illegible]
9 [illegible]

Nationwide League First Division
10 [illegible] v Portsmouth
11 [illegible]
12 Huddersfield v Charlton
13 Norwich v Swindon
14 Oldham v Stoke
15 Port Vale v Bolton
16 QPR v Oxford Utd
17 Reading v Sheffield Utd
18 Southend v Tranmere
19 West Brom v Barnsley

Second Division
20 Blackpool v Chesterfield
21 Bournemouth v Watford
22 Bristol Rovers v Peterboro
(at Twerton Park, Bath)
23 Bury v Brentford
24 Crewe v Stockport
25 Gillingham v Bristol City
26 Luton v Burnley
27 Millwall v Wrexham
28 Notts County v Preston
29 Plymouth v York
30 Walsall v Rotherham

Third Division
31 Brighton v Chester
32 Cambridge Utd v Barnet
33 Colchester v Hartlepool
34 Doncaster v Carlisle
35 Fulham v Hereford
36 Hull v Darlington
37 Leyton O v Scunthorpe
38 Mansfield v Exeter
39 Scarborough v Cardiff
– Swansea v Rochdale
– Torquay v Lincoln
– Wigan v Northampton

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division
40 Celtic v Raith
41 Dundee Utd v Hibernian
42 [illegible]
43 Hearts v Kilmarnock (2.0)
44 Motherwell v Aberdeen

First Division
45 East Fife v St Mirren
46 Morton v Clydebank
47 Partick Thistle v Dundee
48 St Johnstone v Falkirk
49 Stirling v Airdrie

Second Division
Ayr v Hamilton
Clyde v Berwick
Dumbarton v Stranraer
Livingston v Queen of South
Stenhousemuir v Brechin

Third Division
Albion v Forfar
Arbroath v Ross County
Inverness CT v Cowdenbeath
Montrose v Alloa
Queen's Park v East Stirling

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership
Southampton v Chelsea (4.0)

Nationwide League First Division
Birmingham v C Palace (1.0)

Third Division
Shrewsbury v Wycombe (3.0)

TEAM SHEET

Arsenal v West Ham
Last season: 1-0
Last five League matches ('95-96): Arsenal LDDDW; West Ham LWDLD
Bergkamp and Seaman have been passed fit but Gunners' caretaker-manager Houston will not risk new signings Vieira and Garde. Adams is out for at least three weeks after knee surgery. Bould deputises. West Ham's record signing Raducioiu (calf injury) joins Potts, Moncur, Hall, Bishop, Dumitrescu and Cottee on list of absentees. Futre likely to be on bench. Lampard is set to play in midfield while his England Under-19 colleague Ferdinand is also named in an 18-strong squad.

Blackburn v Tottenham
Last season: 2-1
Last five League matches: Blackburn WWWDW, Tottenham DDDWD
Gallacher could be asked to fill Shearer's striking role in partnership with Fenton but Blackburn are without injured Wilcox and Sutton, while Bohinen is doubtful with a hamstring strain and another midfielder, McKinlay, is suspended. The 17-year-old Duff is in their squad. Tottenham are without full-back Austin, who is recovering from a knee operation, Campbell is set to deputise. Anderton and Rosenthal have both been passed fit.

Coventry v Nottm Forest
Last season: 1-1
Last five League matches: Coventry LWDWD; Nottm Forest LDLDW
McAllister will make his debut for the Sky Blues following his £3m transfer from Leeds but O'Neill, a £300,000 signing from Hibernian, is likely to be among the substitutes, as is reserve team striker Ducros. Genaux and Ndlovu are injured. For Forest, Roy is ruled out by a hamstring injury but summer signings Jerkan and Saunders will play. Manager Clark will hope that striker Campbell can continue the form which has seen him score eight goals in eight pre-season matches.

Derby Co v Leeds Utd
Last season: Did not meet.
Last five League matches: Derby WDDWL, Leeds LLLLD
Derby's captain, Van der Laan, is facing surgery on his ankle and was expected to miss the first few weeks of the season, but may be asked to play because Powell has chicken pox. Stimac is doubtful with a back injury. Summer signings Laursen, Asanovic and Dailly are set for their debuts. Leeds will introduce new signings Rush, Bowyer, Sharpe and Martyn, but injury deprives them of Yeboah, Dorigo and Palmer.

Everton v Newcastle
Last season: 1-3
Last five League matches: Everton WLWW, Newcastle WWWDD
Everton's only injury casualty is the former Newcastle defender Hottiger. Southall is set to make his 700th appearance for the club despite the recent signing of rival goalkeeper Gerrard. Kanchelskis could figure in a central attacking role alongside Ferguson. Shearer is set for his Newcastle debut, with Ferdinand partnering him in attack because of the suspension of Asprilla.

Middlesbrough v Liverpool
Last season: 2-1
Last five League matches: Middlesbrough WDLLL; Liverpool WDWDD
Juninho has recovered from a knee ligament injury sustained in the Olympic Games and is expected to line up in a home side which will include Ravanelli and Emerson for the first time. For Liverpool, Berger is unlikely to be plunged straight into action. The £3.2m Czech midfielder has recovered from a calf injury and should be named as one of the five substitutes, with Redknapp, Ruddock and Wright all back in contention – but Rob Jones, Harkness, Kennedy and Scales are all injured.

Sheff Wed v Aston Villa
Last season: 2-0
Last five League matches: Sheffield Wed WLDLD; Aston Villa WLDLL
Wednesday manager Pleat has named his four summer signings, Booth, Collins, Clarke and Oakes, in his squad and, with Hirst injured, could give a full home debut to teenage striker Humphreys. Defender Newsome is out with a thigh strain. England Under-21 goalkeeper Oakes is set for his Premiership debut for Villa because Bosnich has a knee injury. Milosevic has an Achilles injury so Johnson is set to partner Yorke in attack. Newcomer Nelson is ruled out with a thigh strain.

Sunderland v Leicester
Last season: 1-2
Last five League matches: Sunderland DWDDL; Leicester DWWWW
Sunderland include newcomers Coton and new record signing Quinn, but £1m purchase Rae misses the first three matches because of a suspension carried over from last season with Millwall. Midfielder Parker is Leicester's main worry – he is fighting a chest infection – while striker Claridge is also doubtful with an ankle injury. Leicester manager O'Neill is set to give debuts to American goalkeeper Keller and former Norwich defender Prior.

Wimbledon v Man Utd
Last season: 2-4
Last five League matches: Wimbledon WWLLD; Man Utd WLWWW
Two Wimbledon strikers, Goodman and Ekoku, are struggling with ankle injuries as their team-mates prepare for a Selhurst Park rarity: a 26,000 sell-out crowd. Manchester United manager Ferguson is waiting for fitness checks on Giggs, Keane and Butt – but the wealth of talent at Old Trafford is reflected in a 18-man squad which includes new summer arrivals Poborsky, Johnsen, Cruyff and the Dutch goalkeeper, Van der Gouw.

tomorrow...
Southampton v Chelsea
Last season: 2-3. **Last five League matches:** Southampton LWLWD; Chelsea LWDDL
Monkou will miss tomorrow's game against his former club because of a calf injury. Dryden or Dodd will deputise in defence. New Chelsea manager Gullit, still short of fitness after his knee injury, will be without Phelan, Sinclair, Rocastle and Newton.

شكرا من الوصل

هكذا من الاصل

McAllister loss leaves Leeds cold

Simon Turnbull visits the Yorkshire city where enthusiasm for today's Premiership kick-off is in short supply

If you wanted to buy a player mobile for your bedroom at Leeds United's city centre shop on Thursday lunchtime the choice, at £2.99 a time, was between Gary McAllister, Gary McAllister and Gary McAllister. You could have also invested £8.99 in a copy of *The Captain's Log*, helpfully subtitled on the dustjacket as *The Gary McAllister Story*.

Not so much sent to Coventry as voluntarily lured there, Leeds United's captain once-removed had been left on the shelf. His former worshippers feel they have suffered a similar fate too. As Ian Dobson put it, over a pint in the Scarborough Hotel: "I think we realise this is not going to be our season."

The tattooed gentleman behind the fruit and veg stall, the only animate object to be found parading a Leeds United shirt in the city's vast indoor market (there were a few on hangers at the Leeds Rugby League kiosk) was similarly resigned. "Apprehensive," was his economical response when asked to sum up his mood on the eve of the big kick-off.

He had to be succinct, such was the queue for service. A three-minute stroll away, at The Leeds United Collection Shop in Burtons Arcade, the two ladies behind the till had only each other (and the Gary McAllister collection) for company.

A young boy peered through the window at the white shirt emblazoned with a number nine and the name "Rush". "Come on," his mother said, dragging him in the direction of Habitat next door. "It's just the Leeds United shop."

With the possible exception of Blackburn, where the shorn-off Ss, Hs, Es, As and Rs probably still litter the streets around Ewood Park, it was difficult to conceive of a place on the Premiership map with less collective enthusiasm for the new season ahead. At least on the streets of Sunderland, Leicester and Derby there is the anticipation of a new adventure ahead, albeit tempered by fear of a return ticket to Grimsby and Reading come the May day of reckoning.

In Leeds, even that traditional last bastion of defiant optimism, the club magazine, could not help but betray the gloomy disposition of a football city gripped not so much by fever as placid sufferance.

On pages 14 and 15 of the August edition of the imaginatively titled *Leeds United Magazine*, Howard Wilkinson pleads for the fans to get behind his team, the rallying call managers usually issue somewhere in between a disastrous start by his players and the arrival of the sack.

Leeds, indeed, kick off at Derby this afternoon as second favourites – second favourites to change their manager before the end of the season, that is. Only Leicester's Martin O'Neill is expected to have a shorter shelf-life than Wilkinson, who has been given 7-4 survival odds by Ladbrokes.

Radio Five Live's switchboard was jammed with Leeds fans calling for the manager's head on David Mellor's Saturday night *606* programme towards the end of last season, when a run of six defeats came after the abject Coca-Cola Cup final performance against Aston Villa. Yet Wilkinson's critics sympathised with his plight this summer as the protracted manner of Leeds' £16.5m takeover by the London-based Caspian media group precipitated the departure of the revered McAllister and left the club as bit-part players in the booming transfer market.

The arrival of Ian Rush, Nigel Martyn, Lee Bowyer and Lee Sharpe has not eased the disappointment of losing McAllister ("We are not going to be able to replace him," the club magazine concedes), let alone rivalled the signings up the road at Newcastle and Middlesbrough.

"I think we're in the second division of the Premiership," Ian Dobson said. "Apart from Liverpool, Man United and maybe Villa, you can't see anyone else winning the title."

The close-season signing of Lee Sharpe from Manchester United was *one of the few comforts* for Leeds supporters

The Ooh! Aah! days of 1992, when the dream midfield of Strachan, McAllister, Batty and Speed swept Leeds to the title and when Eric the not-yet Red tormented Eike Immel and Stuttgart are long gone now. Even the false dawn of Tony Yeboah's goals of the month and Monaco hat-trick last year has faded in the memory.

After the machinations of the summer takeover, a season of sights set on consolidation is not anathema to Ian Dobson and his friend, Andy Peterson, a contributor to *The Square Ball* fanzine. They became fans in the Second Division days of the 1980s. Both in their mid-twenties, they are too young to recall the Don Revie years.

"I think we need to accept a couple of years of transition," Peterson said. "Let's not forget," Dobson interjected. "Man United didn't win a championship for 26 years."

As Leeds United and their followers prepared to embark on a season of not-so-great expectations, it was difficult to decide whether that was a cheering or a sobering thought.

Wily Continentals crossing the divide

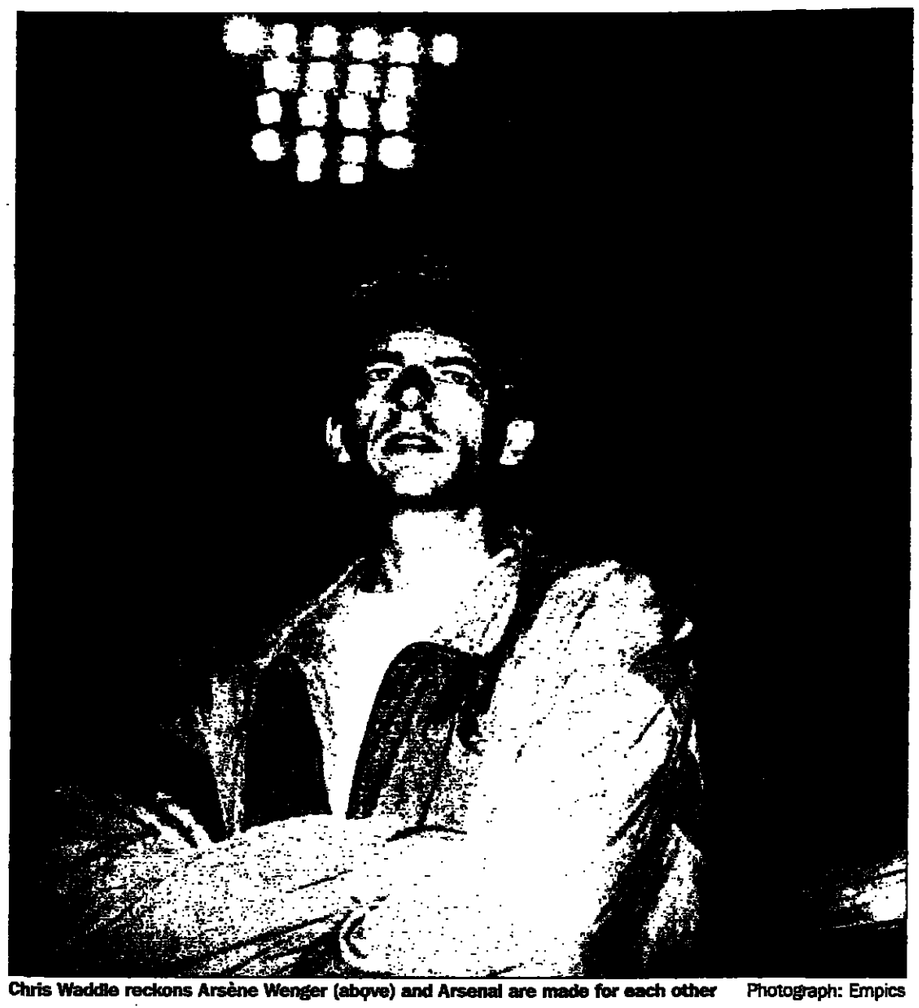
Olivia Blair

ON SATURDAY

Forgive me for being a killjoy on the opening day of the season proper (apologies to non-Premiership clubs), but how blasé are we becoming? It was only four years ago that we were excited by John Jensen's £1.1m transfer from Brondby to Arsenal (well, some of us were). Yet on the eve of the 1996/97 season, not content with Vialli, Ravanelli, Emerson, Poborsky and Di Matteo (to name but a few), the back pages of the tabloids were unashamedly screaming: "Give us Cruyff".

Cruyff junior is already a Premiership player. However, that Cruyff senior will become a Premiership manager (at least for now) is about as unlikely as Alan Shearer failing to score this season. Instead it will be the Frenchman, Arsène Wenger, who will be Bruce Rioch's successor. The irony of Glenn Hoddle's former mentor becoming the next Arsenal manager has not been lost on fans either side of the north London divide (and may explain Arsenal fans' decidedly lukewarm reaction to the news). However in everything but name, Wenger appears far better suited to the post than Johan Cruyff. Chris Waddle, who played in many a gritty north London derby before moving to Marseille, where his side pipped Wenger's Monaco team to the French championship two seasons running, reckons Wenger and Arsenal are made for each other. "His teams were well-organised, well-disciplined, very hard to play against. His priority was not conceding goals, to get people back behind the ball. If the fans are expecting cavalier football forget it. He's a training ground perfectionist like George Graham."

Wenger won't find communication a problem (unlike his predecessor, whose lack of communication with the Arsenal board was apparently the reason for his sacking); he speaks at least four languages, including English, fluently. But it is ironic that as we plunder foreign shores, both for players and coaches, our two most successful national coaches have had to take their expertise elsewhere: Bobby Robson to Barcelona (via PSV, Sporting Lisbon and Porto) and Terry Venables (who claimed no other English club wanted him after *Euro 96*) to, er, Portsmouth.



Chris Waddle reckons Arsène Wenger (above) and Arsenal are made for each other Photograph: Empics

So what is it that makes us think foreign coaches will succeed where a home-grown coach won't? Do we have such an inferiority complex that we bow to what we assume is a foreigner's better judgement? "Wenger's a superb technical coach," we say parrot-fashion, because we know precious little else, except that his ideals fashioned the new England coach.

Most foreign coaches are more qualified than many of our former players who take up coaching posts. But psychologist Dr George Sik, whose new book, *I Think I'll Manage*, analyses the different management styles of some of the game's leading gaffers, claims it is just a natural progression that the foreign coaches should follow the players to Britain. "Of course they have different ideas and techniques," he says, "but it's just as much the novelty value, a case of a change being as good as a rest."

Certainly a foreign coach may come unburdened with any preconceived ideas about certain teams and players, but that could as easily be a hindrance, say, if he fails to convey enough of a sense of urgency to his players in the games that really matter.

Foreign coaches in our games are nothing new. Successful foreign coaches are. The Czech, Dr Jozef Venglos, spent an instantly forgettable season at Aston Villa in 1990/91, while when Ivan Golac took over from the autocratic Jim McLean at Dundee United, one player said it was like "walking out of Colditz and into Butlin's". The Tannadice club did win their first trophy in 13 years under Golac but his motivational methods included taking the players for walks in the part to hear the birds sing... Golac's subsequent reign at Torquay was even less successful. The chairman said later: "We made him an offer he should have refused."

The Uruguayan, Danny Bergara, now assistant director of coaching at Darlington, says he had it easier than most when he became Rochdale's manager in 1988, because he spoke good English. "But when people say *the game has a universal language*, nothing could be further from the truth. England is very different. It has one of the best leagues in the world, but the technique and traditions are so different, and I don't believe British players want to win enough: how come a country of 2.5 million people like Uruguay can win two World Cups and numerous South American Championships while Britain, with 55 million people and a lot more money, wins one World Cup – and that's it? For every Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam, there are many more equally good golfers who come out of tiny Sweden. There's something lacking somewhere."

Bergara is not surprised that British clubs are welcoming foreign coaches, but thinks that those, like Rund Gullit, who have already played in this country, stand a better chance of success. "I played at the highest levels in Spain and Uruguay, yet over here my name meant nothing and I couldn't get a work permit [in 1974]. Coaching was my only option. My problem is that I am called Bergara, not Di Stefano."

But for every foreign coach in the British game, there is a Brit who goes abroad to try his luck. Robson aside, there is Roy Hodgson at Internazionale, John Toshack at Real Sociedad and Terry Yorath, now in charge of the Beirut national side. Some have to travel even further afield to gain the recognition denied them here. The former Lincoln and Scarborough manager, Steve Wicks, coaches the S-League side Woodlands Wellington in Singapore. Both his Football League managerial appointments in England floundered on disputes with the chairman: he says having a job "where you are coach and manager with no interference, in a country where the people are as football-crazy as any I have ever seen, is very exciting".

Brian Talbot, the former Arsenal and Ipswich midfield player, who had fruitless spells as manager of West Bromwich and non-League bound Aldershot ("I was banging my head against a brick wall for eight months"), took the Maltese Premier League side Hibernians to their first title in 13 years in 1994, and again in 1995. "Malta's been an education. Here I'm the coach, my responsibilities are just football; I have nothing to do with contracts, fixtures or bonuses. People look upon me going to Malta as a backward step, say I failed in England. But I didn't want to go back for any old job in some outpost."

At least Gullit and Wenger won't have the problems one well-known English manager had in Portugal. He could not understand why everyone got so upset whenever he shouted corner, until he discovered that in Portuguese "cona" is a female part of the anatomy...

Keegan happy to have Elliott back

Kevin Keegan yesterday celebrated the collapse of Robbie Elliott's move to Blackburn and revealed he was about to re-sign for Newcastle.

Blackburn pulled out, claiming there were question marks over the full-back's fitness, but Keegan believes Blackburn's loss is Newcastle's gain and said: "Robbie is going to re-sign here on a two-year deal. We've got to talk to his agent but it's virtually agreed."

Keegan criticised Blackburn's attempt to buy the £3.5m-rated Elliott on the cheap. "The so-called substantial offer Blackburn made us was £1m. It may be substantial for Blackburn but it's not for us.

"I would have thought the whole thing would have been disappointing for Robbie but he is coming back to a bigger club, that's for sure and I'm just delighted to have him back. I would have had to have sign another full-back to put John Beresford under pressure if Robbie had gone."

Keegan will put Elliott straight *into his squad for today's opening* Premiership match against Everton at Goodison Park.

Keegan will be forced to make at least one change from the side which beat Anderlecht in midweek because Faustino Asprilla is suspended, but David Batty, who did not train yesterday, is fit.

Brighton have been found guilty by an FA Discipliniary Commission of failure to control their crowd after trouble flared in April. An FA Disciplinary Committee yesterday met with the Brighton chief executive, David Bellotti, at the Goldstone Ground following the riot that led to Albion's home match against York City being abandoned on 27 April.

The Third Division club have had three championship points deducted and have also been ordered to play one match behind closed doors. Both penalties are suspended until the end of the coming 1996-97 season.

But they will be enforced, in full or in part, if there is any serious incidents of misconduct involving Brighton supporters *either at home or away.*

Burns battles to field a side

Rupert Metcalf on the weekend action in Scotland's Premier Division

It may be only the second week of the Scottish League season, but the Celtic manager, Tommy Burns, is already facing an injury crisis.

Burns has no fewer than 10 top players on the treatment tables as he prepares for today's Premier Division meeting with Raith Rovers in Glasgow and next Tuesday's Uefa Cup return leg against the Slovakian side, Kosice. Also, there is no sign of an early end to the problems, with Paul McStay and Phil O'Donnell likely to be out for some time.

Celtic face Raith today with McStay, O'Donnell, Paolo Di Canio, Alan Stubbs and two squad men, Stuart Gray and Marq Anthony, all definitely out. Those on the doubtful list are Brian O'Neil, Jackie McNamara, Morten Wieghorst and Andreas Thom. Burns has been forced to put teenagers John Paul McBride, a 17-year-old midfielder, and 18-year-old defender Paddy Kelly on standby for places on the bench against Raith.

"We have a few problems and if the ones who are doubtful don't make it then I will have to call up the two young players," Burns said. "We are up against it, but I am sure the players that play will accept their responsibilities and I am looking for the supporters to really get behind us," Burns said. "If their favourites are not playing, they must back the ones who are out wearing the hoops."

Celtic have also announced that their scheduled friendly away to Sporting Lisbon in Portugal on 31 August has been postponed, as both clubs will have several players on international duty.

The champions, Rangers, head for the Kingdom of Fife to face Dunfermline Athletic. There will be a full house at East End Park to see Dunfermline's first game back in the top flight – last week's game against Hearts was postponed.

Dunfermline have waited four years for Premier Division football, and the First Division championship flag will be unfurled by their chairman, Roy Woodrow, before they meet Rangers.

"We had about 850 watching us play Stranraer in midweek," Dunfermline manager, Bert Paton, said yesterday. "Against Rangers there will be 18,300 inside East End Park, and that's what it's all about for me. There's nothing like a full house to inspire players."

Paul Gascoigne could be on the bench for Rangers. The England midfielder, who has had an Achilles injury, has not played since *Euro 96*, and he needs to prove his fitness of he is to have a chance of featuring in Glenn Hoddle's squad for next month's World Cup qualifier against Moldova.

Brian Laudrup, Joachim Björklund and Alex Cleland are also ready to return for Rangers, but their captain, Richard Gough, may be given time to recover from a head injury sustained against Clydebank during the week.

Barry Lavety is in line for his Premier Division debut for Hibernian at Dundee United, after scoring in the midweek Coca-Cola Cup win over Brechin following his move from St Mirren. Brian Welsh returns to Tannadice only 10 days after moving to Edinburgh while United look set to recall Owen Coyle, who came off the bench to score the winner against Stirling Albion on Tuesday.

Motherwell face a Fir Park test against their manager Alex McLeish's former club, Aberdeen. Mitchell van der Gaag could return after injury for the home side, but Chris McCart and John Hendry are ruled out. Aberdeen have their striker Billy Dodds back from suspension but Scott Booth and Stewart McKimmie are injured. Hearts entertain Kilmarnock at Tynecastle Park in their first Premier game of the season, with Jeremy Goss set to return and Darren Beckford likely to win a bench place.

KEEGAN GAMBLED £15M ON SHEARER.
YOU CAN TOO FOR JUST A QUID!

Kevin reckons that £15m is a small price to pay to bring glory to Newcastle. You can place a spread bet from just £1 on how many days it will take Shearer to score his first Premiership goal. We predict between 7 – 9 days. If you fancy it will be longer, you win your stake x each additional day (you can also bet on it being less than 7 days). The more it goes your way, the more you win (the reverse applies when you lose).

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'Everybody has an assignment. They have one for when we don't have the ball and one for when we do. It is like the pieces in a clock'
RUUD GULLIT ON CHELSEA'S THOUGHTFUL REVOLUTION
Page 24

FOOTBALL: The Premiership kicks off today but the arguments have already started. **Phil Shaw** reports

'Bitter' Houston speaks his mind

This time last year, the sense of expectation surrounding Arsenal was almost tangible. Today they launch a new campaign at home to West Ham against a backdrop of unrest which yesterday prompted Stewart Houston, their caretaker manager, to bemoan the "bitter taste" left by Bruce Rioch's sacking.

Houston, who also held the fort following George Graham's *dismissal 17 months ago, will* oversee first-team matters for five weeks until Rioch's probable successor, the former Monaco coach Arsène Wenger, is free from his commitments in *Japan. However, it is clear* he does not regard his duties as preventing him from speaking out.

"Of course loyalties have been stretched," Houston said. "I've lost another good friend – *two, really, because Steve* Burtenshaw, our chief scout, has also gone this week. But what else can I do but get on with it?

"There's a lot of bitter taste around when something like this *happens to a man you like* and respect. People on the outside couldn't see it perhaps, but he [Rioch] was a very caring person who looked after his players and staff and was always very approachable."

Rioch's coup in bringing Dennis Bergkamp from Internazionale to Highbury 12 months ago was seen as the ultimate in transfers from Italy to England. Now another Dutchman, Ruud Gullit, has gone a step further.

In years to come, people may look back on this weekend as a turning point. Will it be remembered as when the first wave of Italians arrived, captivating crowds and changing the game here forever? Or as a cultural mis-match in which a few *Serie A* stars briefly had their way with the Premiership – in the mercenary position – before the money ran out?

Chelsea's captures, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo, must wait until tomorrow before discovering the realities of the British game at Southampton. Lying in wait amid The Dell's cramped confines will be a team of hungry journeymen (plus Matthew Le Tissier) now under Graeme Souness, whose friendship with Vialli at Sampdoria will not temper the tackling.

Grafting foreign flair on to an average side did not work for Middlesbrough when they went Brazilian. Undaunted, Bryan Robson takes the wraps off his own Italian, Fabrizio Ravanelli, against Liverpool, 10 years after Boro kicked off before 3,690 diehards at Hartlepool when the Receiver padlocked Ayresome Park.

There are no Italians at Manchester United, Newcastle and Liverpool, the trio likely to dominate again, although all now have a Czech. The double winners might have hoped for an easier start than Wimbledon away. Joe Kinnear's gang will not stand on ceremony, making Eric Cantona's return to Selhurst Park a test of temperament and his suitability as captain.

Newcastle face an equally *arduous task at Everton*, where Duncan Ferguson is capable of giving their suspect defence a torrid time. Clubs seeking a striker will be studying Kevin Keegan's line-up to see whether he pairs *Les Ferdinand with* Alan Shearer. "We're still one of the teams capable of winning the title," Keegan said yesterday, "but that's all we are."

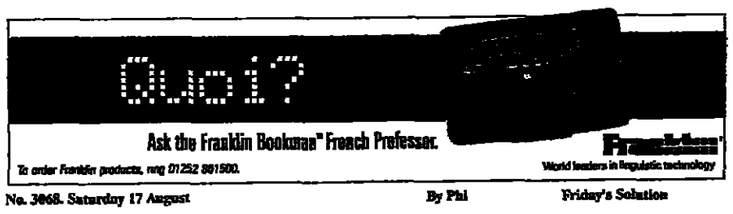
History suggests that Rioch's exit will be followed by others by autumn, with Ray Harford and Howard Wilkinson under particular pressure. Harford found the switch from coach to manager awkward last season – now he is cast as the man who sold Shearer. His failure to *sign a replacement will count* against him unless Tottenham, one of the division's best away sides, are beaten. What should work in Harford's favour is a desire, sure to be manifested in the performance of Colin Hendry, to prove that Blackburn are more than a one-man team.

Wilkinson, whose sale of Gary McAllister was also largely out of his hands, must hope for a similar response from his Leeds players at promoted Derby. *Those who like to see the ball* sprayed around in the manner of McAllister will look to Aljosa Asanovic, Derby's £900,000 Croatian, who could be a candidate for snip of the summer.

The weekend's losers can console themselves that first-day results are often poor pointers to long-term prospects. After Manchester United's 3-1 defeat at Aston Villa last August (as Newcastle were keeping a clean sheet), Alan Hansen decreed: "*You win nothing with kids.*" Perhaps, in the rush to judgement, some bold pundit will shortly be substituting "Italians" for "kids".

Fabrizio Ravanelli, Middlesbrough's import from Italy's *Serie A*, keeps a young fan happy at the Riverside Stadium yesterday Photograph: Victoria Matther

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



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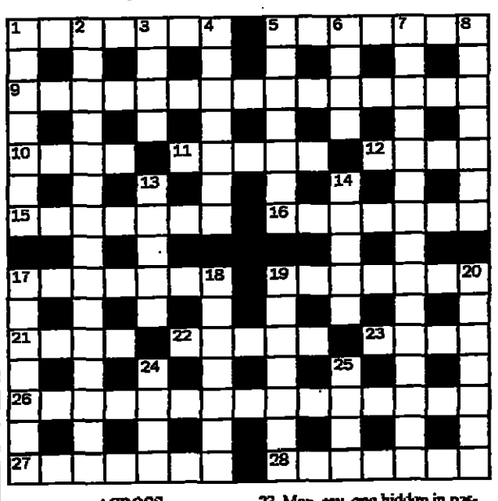


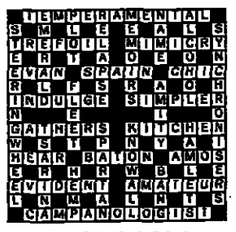
ACROSS

1 Letters received after rude description of woman (7)
5 Is frightened to receive very warm garments (7)
9 Boozy night - are men for it, ultimately? (3, 7, 5)
10 Soft drink has you looking ill (4)
11 Fruit is on the ground round base of stem (5)
12 Family left in prison (4)
15 Can Hertfordshire town produce metal goods? (7)
16 Detectives apprehending Prince returned about item of regalia (7)
17 Aerial transport being mostly seen in take-off (3-4)
19 Tuscans ruined part of mass (7)
21 Students with zero input by lecturer take it easy (4)
22 Resting-place for travellers in a remote location (5)
23 Man, say, one hidden in passage (4)
26 Any teeth sliding out of place? You should have listened to me? (6, 9)
27 Attached to room is a little space - use it carelessly (2, 5)
28 Half of wealth boy acquired from act of betrayal (7)

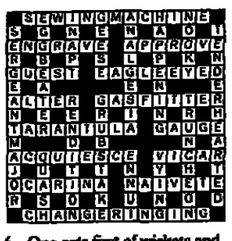
DOWN

1 Fluttering, it's caught by father - end of insect (3-1-3)
2 Bits of Scottish rock formed from all the sands in the borders of Scotland (8,7)
3 Lout to show disapproval of Queen (4)
4 Solid information given to United in Spain (7)
5 Dark, except in the circumstances that will follow onset of starshine (7)
6 One gets first of wickets and you're out (4)
7 Figure figures? (5, 10)
8 Wrong to take good Ecstasy, injecting your hypodermic? (7)
13 Saying damage will involve *Times?* (5)
14 Party has to live with a negative vote (5)
17 Odds on gatehouse exhibiting a nasty mark (7)
18 The core exhibits damage for a foot (7)
19 What sounds like minor deception? (7)
20 Make more palatable the information about start of golf match that's coming up (7)
24 Duty imposed on one to go to the terminal? (4)
25 Insect eating dead historian (4)

Friday's Solution



Last Saturday's Solution



THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE — Make the longest word you can from BLENTGEVE Friday's Scramble: WHEREVER

Win a Franklin Bookman French Professor worth £100

The first correct solution to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday win a Franklin Bookman French Professor worth £100. Answers and the winner's name will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winner was Mr R Caton, Northampton.

European Cup place for finishing second

England have been told they can enter two clubs in the European Cup from the 1997-98 season after Uefa decided to go ahead with controversial plans to expand their flagship competition.

The deal for eight of Europe's leading football nations means that this season's Premiership runners-up could have consolation in the Champions' League.

They will have to take part in a pre-qualifying match next August for the right to take their place in the lucrative round-robin competition, which will be extended from 16 to 24 clubs.

The move has angered purists who believe the Champions' League should remain the exclusive preserve of exactly that: champions.

But the Football Association, represented by the chairman, *Keith Wiseman*, the chief executive, Graham Kelly, and accompanied by Rick Parry, the Premiership chief, at the meeting of European Football's governing body in Zurich, support the change.

"The proposal has the full backing of the FA and the FA Premier League and they were all pleased with the outcome of the day's talks," said an FA spokesman.

As part of the Uefa shake-up, winners of all domestic leagues will once again be invited to enter the European Cup, which is good news for the likes of the League of Wales, whose champions have recently had to settle for a Uefa Cup berth.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has expressed delight at Ray Clemence's decision to accept the role of specialist goalkeeping coach to the national team.

Hoddle said: "I'm delighted to have somebody of his coaching and management experience to join my set-up – it's a major coup.

"Ray is somebody who I have both played with and known for many years. *He's done so much* in football and I'm delighted he will be joining us on a full-time basis."

The 48-year-old former Liverpool and Tottenham goalkeeper, who has quit as manager of Barnet, succeeds Mike Kelly in the England role.

However, like Under-21 boss Peter Taylor, Clemence has taken the job on a full-time basis and will have wider duties in the new regime.

With John Gorman as his assistant, the new England boss now has the nucleus of his staff for the opening World Cup qualifier in Moldova on 1 September – he will name his squad in six days' time after just two rounds of Premiership matches.

Terry Venables' right-hand man, Bryan Robson, has stepped down, while the veteran coach Don Howe remains with the FA as technical co-ordinator but is no longer expected to play a part on the England scene.

Clemence, the first goalkeeper to captain his country (against Brazil in 1981), would have probably had a century of caps had it not been for the presence of his great rival Peter Shilton, who won the bulk of his 125 caps in Clemence's time.

As a club player, he swept the board of honours with the great Liverpool sides of the 1970s before moving to Tottenham in 1982.

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IN MONDAY'S 24-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

In the build-up to the third and final Test against Pakistan at The Oval, which starts on Thursday, Michael Atherton, the England cricket captain, talks to Derek Pringle about his and England's summer and the end of the Illingworth era.
Plus: Reports from every match on the first weekend of the FA Carling Premiership
Plus: *That Was The Weekend That Was*, our alternative guide to two days of football action

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

'Frank Williams prefers his drivers to race, and neither need expect any quarter... So long as Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve do not drive into one another over the next four races – as Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost once did while team-mates at McLaren – Williams will maintain his equanimity. After all, his eighth Constructors' Championship is already in the bag.'
David Tremayne reveals the inside story of the private duel that is the Formula One world championship and discovers why Damon Hill is suffering gridlock on the start line.
Plus: Ian Ridley gives the lowdown on the Highbury crisis; Nick Knight, one of England's cricket heroes at Headingley looks forward to the Oval Test and John Coats talks to Andrew Cardick, the potential answer to a striking problem.

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